

LONDON (AP) — The divorce of Prince Charles and Princess Diana was granted by the High Court on Saturday. The divorce was granted on the grounds of irretrievable breakdown of marriage. The divorce was granted on the grounds of irretrievable breakdown of marriage. The divorce was granted on the grounds of irretrievable breakdown of marriage.

Diana being counseled for eating disorder

LONDON (AP) — Princess Diana has been receiving counseling for an eating disorder, it was reported on Saturday. The report came from a source close to the princess. The report came from a source close to the princess. The report came from a source close to the princess.

Doctor extracts sperm from man

NEW YORK (AP) — A doctor has extracted sperm from a man who was in a coma, it was reported on Saturday. The doctor said the sperm was extracted from the man's testis. The doctor said the sperm was extracted from the man's testis. The doctor said the sperm was extracted from the man's testis.

**Israel expands Golan settlements**  
TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli government is helping to expand settlements in the Golan Heights by pumping funds into projects there, Israel radio reported Saturday. The government put up 60 per cent of the \$100 million invested in the Golan in the last two years, with the rest coming from private investors among the 12,000 settlers and foreign businessmen, the radio said. Among the projects benefiting from public money in the Golan is a state-of-the-art cowshed near the kibbutz or collective village of Meron Golan which will produce six million litres of milk every year. Various ministries and public institutions have provided \$2.7 million out of the \$4.3 million for the project. Meanwhile, 500 new homes in Katzrin, the biggest settlement in the Golan, have been sold in the last six months and another 250 houses are under construction. The government has set out to attract new buyers with benefits including grants and mortgages at reduced rates, the radio said.

# Jordan Times

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## King, Mubarak pledge pre-crisis bilateral ties

### Aqaba summit produces agreement to launch efforts for Arab reconciliation

From Amman Al Safadi in Aqaba  
HIS MAJESTY King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Saturday pledged to develop Jordanian-Egyptian ties and to work towards reconciliation among Arab states. Addressing a press conference at the end of a three-hour visit here by Mr. Mubarak, King Hussein said that Jordanian-Egyptian relations "will return to their previous level in terms of cooperation, coordination and joint action for the benefit of the Arab Nation." Welcoming the Egyptian president as "dear brother," the King said the summit had produced an agreement that the two leaderships would maintain contacts at all levels. "The future is full of goodness... we are brothers and our relations are old and based on... a determined desire to work together for the benefit of this nation," King Hussein told reporters at the garden at the Royal Palace overlooking the Red Sea. Mr. Mubarak, who was on his first visit to Jordan since the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, also pledged increased cooperation between the two states, adding that it was "imperative" for him to visit Jordan since King Hussein visited Egypt three times in the past few years. "I came to Aqaba (and not Amman) ... to stay away from formalities (and to hold talks) in a brotherly atmosphere. We will continue our cooperation for the benefit of the two countries," he said. The new element in the meeting, said Mr. Mubarak, was the agreement on "expanding the (cooperation) to include other countries." Responding to a question whether there will be fresh efforts to end the strain in inter-Arab ties, the Egyptian president said it "is inevitable for Arab countries to reach reconciliation." "Differences among Arab states have always existed. That these differences have increased is a temporary situation," Mr. Mubarak said. Answering to a question whether Jordan and Egypt would take joint action to facilitate Syrian-Israeli peace talks, Mr. Mubarak said, "the Syrian track knows where it is heading." He expressed hope that Damascus would go through the negotiations until it reaches just peace. Mr. Mubarak, the first Arab head of state to visit the Kingdom since the signing of the Oct. 26 peace treaty with Israel, said the recent Alexandria mini-summit was aimed at achieving Arab reconciliation. The mini-summit grouped Mr. Mubarak, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. Mr. Mubarak said the mini-summit was not held to counter any other summit as "some might believe." Those who criticised the summit before reading its final communiqué did so out of "bad intentions," Mr. Mubarak told reporters. He said the meeting did not discuss issues other than those that were addressed in the final communiqué. King Hussein said his talks with Mr. Mubarak, which started with a closed meeting between the two leaders before it was joined by officials from both sides, dealt with all issues of common concern at this time. He said the summit addressed bilateral ties, and Arab relations in the context of the whole region. "Our hope is for more steps towards just and comprehensive peace to follow," the King said. Mr. Mubarak's visit to Jordan was "an important step towards clearing Arab skies and in the pursuit of a common Arab understanding regarding Arab and regional issues," Egyptian Information Minister Safwat Al Sharif told reporters. Mr. Sharif, who accompanied Mr. Mubarak on the visit along with Foreign Minister Amr Musa, Economy Minister Mahmoud Mohammad and presidential adviser Osama Al Baz, said the Egyptian president's visit assumed special importance because it was the first since the Gulf war. Jordanian-Egyptian ties deteriorated during the Gulf crisis due to the different stands the two countries took on it and were further strained after Egypt criticised the Kingdom's peace treaty with Israel.

(Continued on page 7)



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak answers a question as His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan look on at a joint press conference the King and President Mubarak held after a meeting in Aqaba on Saturday (Photo by Youssef Al Allan)

## Fight over W. Bank settlement turns into battle over Jerusalem

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — On the eve of a crucial cabinet debate on Jewish settlements, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Saturday that Israel would not seize additional West Bank lands, but would continue to allow private construction in settlements. Mr. Peres' deputy, Yossi Beilin, said Israel would insist at final peace talks with Palestinians that West Bank Jewish settlements near Jerusalem end up on Israel's map. "We will certainly insist that areas like Maale Adumim and Givat Ze'ev (settlements east and north of Jerusalem) and Etcetera Be on our permanent map," Mr. Beilin told Israel Radio. Mr. Beilin was speaking ahead of Sunday's cabinet meeting at which a decision is expected on the future of the government's building policy in Jewish settlements in and around East Jerusalem. The Palestinian National Authority, running the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, has condemned settlement expansion, but in talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Thursday, PNA President Yasser Arafat played down the dispute. According to leaks ahead of Sunday's meeting, the housing ministry is planning 30,000 housing units in and around East Jerusalem in the next three to four years. Left-wing government ministers are demanding a halt to building outside Jerusalem. Hawkish opposition politicians said Saturday that if the government decided to curb construction in the satellite settlements, it would signal to the Palestinians that Israel is ready to eventually give back all of the West Bank and Gaza Strip captured in the 1967 Middle East war. This, warned Benyamin Netanyahu of the right-wing Likud Party, would be met by broad popular opposition. "Rabin has to know that if he doesn't lift the constraints on construction around Jerusalem, he will bring about the fall of his government," Mr. Netanyahu told Israel army radio. Hardline Israelis claim that the West Bank satellite settlements circling Jerusalem in a radius of roughly 15 kilometres are part of "greater Jerusalem" and should not be part of the public debate on settlements. Army radio said a majority of ministers from Mr. Rabin's Labour Party supported a continued government-backed building drive in satellite settlements such as Maale Adumim, Givat Ze'ev, Betar and Gush Etzion (see page 2). Today some 40,000 Israelis live there. Mr. Peres said that should the government decide to freeze public construction in the satellite settlements, this would not mean an end to growth there. "Buildings which are necessary for normal life, like schools, even like private apartments, are not going to stop. Peres told Israel Radio on Saturday. "But we are not going to build new settlements, to confiscate land or to enlarge territorially the existing settlements," he said. Mr. Beilin said meanwhile that by continuing its construction campaign in the satellite settlements, Israel would prematurely draw attention to the status of Jerusalem proper. "The struggle for Jerusalem has to be central in our minds," Mr. Beilin said. "Until today, we don't have a recognised capital, as far as the world is concerned. Here (in Jerusalem), we will face our biggest struggle. After that, let's talk about other places." Members of Mr. Arafat's self-rule government demanded Saturday that Israel freeze all construction in settlements, whether public or private. "President Arafat told Prime Minister Rabin in their last meeting that settlements and peace are like two parallel lines. They can never meet," said Saeb Erakat, minister of local affairs.

### Cabinet finalises policy statement

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers, in a meeting held Saturday, approved the government's statement which will be presented to the Lower House of Parliament on Wednesday for a vote of confidence from the legislature. The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

### Talks open today on 1967 displaced

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian, Jordanian and Palestinian officials are to meet here Sunday to prepare a joint position on refugees from the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, Palestinian officials said.

### Naruhito meets emir of Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako met the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, on Saturday on the first day of a Middle East tour aimed at strengthening ties with the oil-rich region. The official Kuwait News Agency KUNA said senior officials were present at the meeting.

### PFLP-GC says 6 fighters killed

BEIRUT (AFP) — Six guerrillas of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) were killed in an attack on an Israeli patrol in South Lebanon Thursday, the group announced Saturday. In a statement issued here, the PFLP-GC said the six victims consisted of two Tunisians, including the 38-year-old leader of the commando unit, two Palestinians and two Syrians.

### French aid worker remains captive

MOGADISHU (AFP) — The U.N. Operation in Somalia reported Saturday that a kidnapped French aid worker had been released — then retracted the announcement after a flood of denials. The aid agency International Action Against Famine (IAICF) said 24-year-old logistical worker Rudy Marq was still being held in Mogadishu after his abduction on Dec. 17 by gunmen.



A Japanese search and rescue team searches for victims of the earthquake that struck rooftops of collapsed buildings in Kobe looking Tuesday (AFP photo)

## Rescue in high gear in Kobe; deaths near 5,000

KOBE (Agencies) — Crews pulled three elderly people to safety Saturday from the wreckage of their homes as Japan's rescue effort rolled into high gear four days after the country's deadliest earthquake in more than 70 years. The death toll from Tuesday's quake passed 4,800. One of the strongest aftershocks since the quake shook the Kobe area late Saturday. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties from the intensity 4.1 jolt. Heavy rains were forecast for Sunday, and officials feared a strong downpour could unleash mud slides and topple buildings weakened by the quake. Police said the death toll climbed Saturday to 4,863 with the recovery of more bodies. Rescuers accelerated efforts to find the 230 others still listed as missing. Nearly 25,000 people were injured in the quake and more than 50,000 buildings severely damaged or destroyed. Thousands have taken refuge in shelters or have camped out in vacant lots. "Finding the last citizens who are trapped, that's our top priority right now," city spokesman Tomoaki Watanabe said. "We're using the (tracker) dogs all over trying to check every house. We're still finding people." Six hundred people occupying 200 homes were evacuated in the Higashi Nada district of eastern Kobe after a landslide Saturday afternoon, local officials said. Another 285 were forced to leave their homes because of road fissures. Experts feared the cracks could grow and engulf nearby houses. Civil defence officials evacuated another 106 people across the city because of walls feared to be on the verge of collapse. The authorities issued an urgent warning that a heavy rainstorm expected Saturday night could bring new landslides. They brought in big tents to house an additional 3,800 of the estimated 190,000 homeless, many of whom are living in plastic shanty towns in city parks. Shojiro Kawakami, head of the fire department, said there were 349 areas considered under high risk for landslides, with the homes of 10,000 people under threat. Troops taking part in the mammoth rescue and clean-up operation started checking the risk zones and preparing for the rain, he added. One Kobe hospital reported receiving 30 cases of influenza, and a spokesman said other hospitals were also reporting many cases. A Kobe doctor said the authorities had to pay "particular attention" to make sure a more serious epidemic did not break out. But officials emphasised there was no sign yet of more serious health problems. On the first weekend since the quake, thousands of people from outside the Kobe area descended Saturday on this stricken city, carrying food, water and other supplies to friends and relatives here. Ferries and trains from Osaka and other cities in the area were jammed. At one station on the outskirts of the city, people were lined up six abreast waiting to board a train. Each of them was wearing a knapsack full of food or carrying boxes of bottled water. On Friday, Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama, under

(Continued on page 7)

## Fighting moves outside Grozny

GROZNY (Agencies) — Russia's army beefed up its forces around the Chechen capital of Grozny on Saturday and reportedly dealt heavy artillery and air attacks on villages elsewhere in the breakaway republic. After a few hours' rare calm in the Chechen capital, Russian forces reportedly renewed harsh shelling of the city centre later in the day. Still defying the odds and Russia's overwhelming military advantage, Chechen fighters clung stubbornly to positions inside the capital. President Dzhokhar Dudayev met with his commanders in a bunker just 500 metres from his former palace, the Chechens claimed. "No one controls the centre of Grozny," Chechen information chief Movladi Udugov was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency. He said gunfights were occurring outside the badly damaged presidential palace, which the Chechens had abandoned on Thursday. Outside Grozny, the bridge on the main road used for escape from the embattled city was blown up overnight, forcing refugees to pass through a stronghold of Chechen forces opposed to Mr. Dudayev. It was not clear who blew up the small bridge spanning an icy creek 20 kilometres west of Grozny, but there was speculation that the opposition destroyed it to force the refugees to pass through their checkpoints.

(Continued on page 7)

## Iraq may accept partial oil sales

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq is ready to resume technical talks on partial oil exports if the United Nations agrees to soften its conditions for such sales, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said in remarks published on Saturday. "Our leadership has said that at any time the U.N. allows Iraq to export oil for the purchase of food and medicine without unfair conditions violating sovereignty... even one million barrels... why not?" Baghdad newspapers quoted Mr. Aziz as saying. Under the partial sales scheme, Iraq would be able to sell up to \$1.6 billion worth of oil. About \$900 million of the proceeds would be available to buy humanitarian supplies badly needed by the country's sanctions-crippled population, with the remainder going for Gulf war reparations and to meet other costs stemming from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Diplomats in Baghdad said on Friday Iraq was willing to settle for partial exports provided that such an agreement would not block its efforts for an end to the oil embargo. But a Security Council source at the United Nations poured cold water on speculation that Iraq might finally be interested in selling a limited quantity of oil subject to U.N. monitoring. "We discussed this with Tariq Aziz absolutely directly and there was no suggestion whatsoever of any movement. I see no reason why they would want to go down this road," the source added. Mr. Aziz said in his comments Saturday dialogue with the U.N. "must not affect Iraq's main urgent goal —

(Continued on page 3)



# Home & Middle East News

## U.S. says Syria-Israel talks at crucial phase

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Negotiations between Israel and Syria are entering a crucial phase and must be accelerated if a breakthrough is to be achieved in the near term, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Friday.

"The negotiations between Israel and Syria are entering a crucial phase," he said in a speech at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

While continuing to assert that the parties are serious and have made some progress narrowing the gaps between them, Mr. Christopher warned however that "if a breakthrough is to be achieved in the coming months, critical decisions must be made and the process will have to be accelerated."

He gave no details but a senior U.S. official recently told Reuters that Mr. Christopher and his Middle East advisers have been discussing ways in which they can encourage speedier and more concrete progress in the Israel-Syria negotiations.

For one thing, the official said, Mr. Christopher probably will not return to the Middle East until there is some demonstrable advance in the talks.

"I think we have to have more progress in the contacts that we're managing at the private level before the secretary would make another trip," the official said in an interview.

"I think that we would want to see in the next concrete and public progress

made during the trip," he added.

This would be a contrast with most of 1994 when Mr. Christopher made almost monthly visits to the region regardless of whether there was evident progress or not. U.S. officials had initially hoped to achieve a breakthrough in the Israel-Syria talks by the end of 1994 but now some senior officials worry that the process could drag on throughout most of 1995 as well.

Israel and Syria have blamed each other for the stalemate.

U.S. officials say it may take the pressure of impending elections in Israel and the United States in 1996 — which could force a change in governments in both capitals — to finally compel Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to make a deal.

Mr. Christopher is due to appear before Congress six times in the next few weeks and aides have hinted he may not make another Middle East trip until March.

Israel's top negotiator warned Friday that time was running out for Israel and Syria to strike a deal in talks set to resume next week in Washington.

Israel's ambassador to Washington, Itamar Rabinovich, said that the talks between him and his Syrian counterpart Walid Al Moualem were moving too slowly.

"I'm not sure that the pace they are conducting the negotiations is compatible to the political timetable for the

Israelis, as well as the Americans and internationally," Mr. Rabinovich said on Israel army radio.

"Israeli politics have a time frame which is dictated, among things, by elections. At a certain stage the Israeli political apparatus will get caught up in this election cauldron, so time is not unlimited," Mr. Rabinovich said. Israel's elections are scheduled for 1996. But Prime Minister Rabin's Labour-led coalition is facing increasing unpopularity and if early elections were called recent polls indicated that the right-wing opposition Likud party would likely regain control of the government.

Moshe Katzar, head of the opposition Likud parliament faction, said Friday his party would not honour any deals Mr. Rabin made with Syria. "There should be no misunderstanding. If Yitzhak Rabin gives the Syrian president any kind of commitment regarding coming down or withdrawing from the Golan Heights, the Likud will not honour it," Mr. Katzar said. The last round held in late December included an unprecedented meeting between senior military officers from the two sides. However, it was not clear if officers would participate in the coming round, which will continue for 10 days, army radio said.

The daily Haaretz, quoting unidentified Israeli officials, said the talks would focus on arranging a summit between Mr. Rabin and Mr. Assad, possibly in the United States at the invitation of President Clinton.



SEARCH IN SNOW: A Turkish army Black Hawk helicopter combs the area where U.S. Air Force pilot Michael Rotand Couillard, 37, 200 kilometres from Istanbul and Ankara, and his 10-year-old son Matthew disappeared four days ago. Colonel Couillard and his son disappeared at Kartalkaya ski resort, some 200 kilometres from Istanbul and Ankara, some 200 kilometres from Istanbul and Ankara, some 200 kilometres from Istanbul and Ankara (page 12) (AFP photo)

## Seminar opens on how Jordan could benefit from trade accords

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A three-day seminar opens in Amman today with the objective of familiarising Jordanian officials as well as businessmen on how the Kingdom could take advantage of the various trade agreements to which it is a party and how it could ensure wider access to the international market.

The seminar, organised by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Amman Chamber of Industry, is scheduled to be addressed by international experts on the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), Jordan's trade accord with the European Union (EU), the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT), and the GATT-World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The event, financed by the government of Italy, is scheduled to be opened at the Amman Chamber of Industry in Jabal Amman Sunday morning by Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb.

Addressing the gathering will be UNCTAD experts, U.N. representatives and a senior official of the U.S. Department of Trade. Jordan is a signatory to the GSP, which was formulated in 1977, offering preferential treatment by developed countries to imports from developing countries.

Jordan is an applicant to join the WTO, which took

formal birth in January and is expected to replace GATT by 1997. The WTO covers a wide range of international trade and economic cooperation and effectively sets a firm framework for barrier-free trade and services.

The Kingdom's trade accord with the European Union also offers preferential (customs duty-free) treatment to Jordanian products, enabling them to compete price-wise in the European markets.

However, all these trade accords are conditional on the country meeting with certain requirements and the Amman seminar aims to familiarise the Kingdom's officials and businessmen on how to meet these requirements and make the best of the agreements to increase its exports and achieve its objective of exports-led economic growth.

According to experts, a lack of full awareness of trade systems and an inability to meet demand have been the major factors that keep down the pace of Jordan's exports.

While the shortages in production capacity to meet export orders cannot be addressed but through expanding facilities, level of awareness of the preferential trade accords could be used through detailed briefings and workshops, says Stefano Inama, a UNCTAD expert, who will address the seminar. Jordanian exporters would be able to take full advantage of the trade accords when armed with full knowledge

"of the theoretical and practical aspects of applying the agreements."

Also reviewed at the seminar would be Jordanian-Italian trade relations in view of Rome's new concentrated approach within the context of a fresh European Union drive to achieving a better balance in economic relations with the Mediterranean region, which includes Jordan.

The EU approach to the Mediterranean region marks a shift away from Eastern European countries and comes in the wake of the breakthroughs in Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

Among those scheduled to address the seminar are Chamber of Industry Chairman Khalid Abu Hassan, UNCTAD Coordinator Teruo Ujile, UNDP Representative Osman Hashim, Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb, Italian Trade Ministry official F. Valentini, Chamber of Industry Advisor Ali Dajani, Mr. Inama, Italian trade expert M. Saladini, European commission official Jean-Pierre Pierrat, and U.S. trade representative official H.J. Rosenbaum.

On Tuesday, the final day of the seminar, a roundtable will be held among Jordanian and Italian businessmen and officials of the Rome-based Arab-Italian Chamber of commerce for an exchange of "ideas on concrete business proposals," according to an Amman Chamber of Industry official.

## IBA cancels plan to hold regional talks in Amman

By Odeh Odeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The International Bar Association (IBA) has decided to cancel plans for holding a regional conference in Amman in April because the Arab Lawyers Federation and the Jordanian Bar Association (JBA) have objected to the participation of Israeli lawyers in the meeting.

Expressing regret over the IBA decision not to hold the regional forum here as scheduled on April 25-27, JBA President Kamal Nasser said that the IBA had "thus sacrificed its dealings with the Arab Lawyers Federation, which represents thousands of lawyers in the Arab World for the sake of satisfying the Israeli lawyers' desires."

Expressing hope that the IBA decision will not be final, Mr. Nasser recalled that

the IBA had visited the JBA office in Amman recently and had said that the meeting would be held without the presence of Israeli lawyers. Dr. Nasser said that the Arab Lawyers Federation had declined to attend an IBA-sponsored conference held in Marrakesh two months ago because of Israeli participation.

Dr. Nasser said that if the meeting was not held as scheduled then the Arab Lawyers Federation would ban any IBA regional meeting to be held anywhere in the Arab World.

Dr. Nasser said he had received a letter dated Jan. 20 on cancelling the regional forum in Amman from Paul Hoddinott, executive director of IBA, which is a federation of national legal associations and individual lawyers based in London.



Royal Highness Princess Basma bint Talal, Minister of Social and Labour Affairs, is seen with women in urban development projects.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### British captive released by Afghan faction

KABUL (AFP) — British national Eden Fernandez, who was held prisoner by an Afghan Shiite faction in south Kabul for eight months, was released Saturday. Mr. Fernandez was handed over by Shiite Hezb-e-Wahdat leader Abdul Ali Mazari to visiting British diplomat Stephen Evans as a humanitarian gesture, even though he was accused of military espionage.

### Iraqi cleric held in UAE, group says

NICOSIA (R) — A London-based Islamist pressure group said an Iraqi Muslim cleric had been arrested in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) where he has lived for 15 years. Liberty for the Muslim World said in a statement faxed to Reuters that Sheikh Abdul Munem Al Ali, 56, was arrested on Jan. 16 from his house in the emirate of Sharjah after returning from evening prayers at a mosque. The statement, dated Jan. 20, said he was held in the capital, Abu Dhabi. Officials in the UAE would not comment on the report. Arab diplomats said the Iraqi cleric would probably be deported for political activity, which is barred under his conditions of residence in the UAE. Liberty for the Muslim World said the cleric had fled Iraq to Kuwait in 1971 then moved to the UAE in 1980. It said security officers searched his house and confiscated books, manuscripts and articles.

### New daily hits new-stands in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — A new daily run by Iran's official IRNA news agency hit the news-stands here on Saturday. In its first editorial, the paper said it had named itself "Iran" because "we feel our country is today calling upon all of us... to unite and defend our identity, culture and interests in the face of mounting hostilities. Publishing 'Iran' is an attempt to respond to this historical summoning," it said. The paper said its was "faithful to the principles" underlying the 1979 Islamic revolution. The newspaper is printed in color and modelled after the popular daily Hamshahri, run by Tehran municipality. Of the total 685 publications in Iran, 35 are dailies.

### Gun-running soars on west Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Illegal arms sales are booming in the occupied West Bank with the majority of weapons stolen from the Israeli army, Israeli radio reported Saturday. The number of illegal weapons in a town of 40,000 inhabitants like Yotvata in the south of the West Bank is around 5,000, on top of 300 firearms given out to Palestinian "collaborators," the radio said. Weapons are taken from army storehouses by members of Israel's organised crime then sold on through Palestinian middlemen, it said. One gun-runner said as many weapons were sold to Palestinians "worried about their personal security when autonomy is extended on the West Bank" to militants or criminals. The smuggler, who was identified, said prices were soaring because of the demand. An Israeli Gali assault rifle, considered superior to Kalashnikovs, would go for \$9,000 while a pistol would cost \$3,600. Smugglers risked a maximum of only six months in jail if they were caught by Israeli security services, he added.

### Izetbegovic criticises dependence on West

CAIRO (R) — Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic on Saturday warned Muslim that dependence on Western technology would definitely lead to political submission. Addressing Muslim scholars and figures attending a two-day conference in Cairo titled "Islam and Arab Culture in a New World," Mr. Izetbegovic said 95 per cent of the world's scientists were based in the United States, Europe, Japan and Russia while the Muslim and Arab world lagged far behind. "The technological dependence of the Muslim World on the West is very obvious. This dependence amounts to political dependence," he told the conference organised by the Saudi-based King Faisal Foundation and Al Azhar university, the most prestigious seat of Islamic learning.

## 8 Labour legislators demand continued W. Bank settlement

TEL AVIV (AP) — Eight Labour Party members of Knesset, Israel's parliament, have demanded that the government continue building in West Bank settlements around Jerusalem.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Israel had no intention of "annexing" more territories, and the settlements surrounding Jerusalem were not part of the city.

The written demand was drafted by Orr Orr, chairman of the Knesset foreign affairs and security committee, and signed by seven other Labour Party legislators identified as hawkish inside their party.

"Security and the political process are two different things," said Labour Knesset member Michal Goldman, a co-signer of the statement. "When I speak about security, I am referring to the very settlements which surround Jerusalem in order to secure Jerusalem so that it will remain forever our capital," he said on Israel television.

Mr. Peres said Israel did not plan to redraw the map of Jerusalem, which was expanded after Israel occupied Arab East Jerusalem in the 1967 war.

"We have annexed parts of non-Jewish Jerusalem and we made them part of Jewish Jerusalem, including the eastern part of the city," Mr. Peres said in an interview on Israel television. "We don't want to create the impression that we are annexing more territory."

Mr. Goldman, Mr. Orr and two other Labour legislators met with members of the opposition Likud Party on Friday in an attempt to find common ground regarding the settlements surrounding Jerusalem.

The Israeli cabinet is scheduled to debate the issue on Sunday, following heightened tensions between Israel and the Palestinians over West Bank construction.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin assured Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat during a summit that Israel would not spend government funds on housing in the occupied West Bank.

Negotiations between Israel and the PLO over expanding Palestinian autonomy into the West Bank from the Gaza Strip and West Bank towns of Jericho have been stalled because of violent attacks against Israeli targets by opponents of the peace process.

As the two sides try to get the peace talks back on track, debate over Jewish settlement construction has further soured relations.

According to a housing ministry report leaked to the press this week and expected to be presented to the cabinet on Sunday, at least 5,000 new housing units in the West Bank have been slated for 1994-95.

Yediot Aharonoth news-

paper said there were nearly 8,000 new housing units planned for 1995, most of them in West Bank settlements about Jerusalem.

These settlements have been labelled "greater Jerusalem," a term referred to by Mr. Rabin in the past, and they lie outside the pre-1967 borders.

"Before the government makes a decision regarding building in greater Jerusalem, a group of Knesset members in the Labour Party have come out with a determined call to the prime minister to continue and build in the areas of Maale Adumim, Gush Etzion and Givat Zeev," Mr. Orr's statement said.

According to Yediot Aharonoth, 2,280 housing units are planned for Maale Adumim, just east of the city along the road to Jericho. In Givat Zeev, north of Jerusalem's border, 1,300 units are planned, the report said.

In Efrat, which lies in the Gush Etzion bloc of settlements south of Bethlehem, which is south of Jerusalem, recent clashes erupted between Jewish settlers and Palestinian residents over Jewish construction on Arab land.

The government moved the Efrat housing project to another location. Since then, Palestinian protests and demonstrations against settlement expansion have erupted all across the West Bank.

## Clerides rejects Denktash offer

NICOSIA (AP) — President Glafos Clerides Saturday rejected as repetitious new Turkish Cypriot proposals for breaking the deadlock in talks for the reunification of the war-divided island.

Turkish Cypriot leader Reuf Denktash submitted new ideas to the U.N. secretary-general on Friday, the eve of the scheduled arrival in Cyprus of U.S. presidential envoy Richard I. Beattie.

President Clinton entrusted Mr. Beattie last month with the task of trying to break the protracted deadlock in the U.N.-sponsored talks for the reunification of the island in a two-community, two-zone federation.

In his response to Mr. Denktash, Mr. Clerides said: "I am anxious that no further time shall be wasted through

repetition of endless discussions and arguments, but strongly recommend that the main issues of the Cyprus problem be addressed in a comprehensive manner and in a way that will yield results."

He added that a new round of talks could start "on the substance of the issue" as soon as shuttle diplomacy indicated direct talks with Mr. Denktash would be "meaningful."

Cyprus has been unofficially partitioned since 1974 when Turkey invaded and occupied the northern third of the island in the wake of a short-lived coup by supporters of union with Greece.

One stumbling block is the Turkish demand for the recognition of the "breakaway" Turkish Cypriot established in the north, which is only recognised by Ankara.

The Turkish side also rejected U.N. resolutions calling for the withdrawal of the estimated 35,000 Turkish troops and 50,000 mainland settlers from the north and the return of all refugees.

Mr. Denktash in his declaration said accepted a two-zone federation.

Mr. Clerides responded saying "the stumbling block was never the title of the solution, but its content," adding that the U.N. Security Council rejects the Turkish demand for separate sovereignty for the Turkish Cypriot zone in the proposed federation.

Mr. Clerides also rejected Mr. Denktash's proposal that peace talks should be preceded by confidence-building measures proposed by the U.N. secretary-general as a first step towards a final settlement.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:00	Cocottes Minutes
17:20	Que Le Muebler Cagne
18:00	Montage
18:30	Le Monde Fantastique Des Enfants
19:00	News In French
19:15	Ushuaia
19:30	Gabacica
20:15	The Nanny
20:45	The Album Show
21:30	Heartbeat
22:00	News In English
22:30	Feature film: "A Burning Passion"
22:59	The Hidden Room
PRAYER TIMES	
05:10	Fajr
06:31	Sunrise (Daha)
11:47	Dhuhr
14:38	Asr
17:42	Maghreb
18:23	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810750	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 627255	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624900	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 713331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 713331	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717151	
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 804328	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195	
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 658952	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
Temperatures are expected to drop with rain falling in the north and central parts of the Kingdom. Skies will be partly cloudy and winds westerly moderate to active. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	2/5
Amman	6/17
Deserts	1/12

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Riza Abu Zinah	894295
Dr. Yousef Sammour	615648
Dr. Khaloud Klob	816715
Dr. Isam Al Azar	890508
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	627025
Natroukh pharmacy	625972
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsan pharmacy	637660
Natroukh pharmacy	625672
Najib pharmacy	847632
Dr. Ahmad Qanu	(—)
Akudh pharmacy	(—)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Akram Al Haddad	985550

JORDAN VALLEY	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 10, Amman 17 Humidity readings: Amman 49 per cent, Amman 45 per cent.	
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	620341
Rescue	620341
Fire Brigade	617101
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	845402
Traffic Police	846390
Police Security Department	620321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Complaints	775111
Amman Municipality	897467
Telephone Information	121
Overseas Calls	010530
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	626381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200

HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn	644281/8
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn	644281/8
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mallat, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shamsan	664171/4
Shamsan Hospital	689131
University Hospital	773102/8
Al-Muhsin Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/7
Italian, Al-Muhajiroun	664164/6
Al-Basrah, J. Ashrafiah	773102/8
Army, Marka	891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital	602400/0
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)983323
Al-Sina Hospital	(09)983323
Al-Hizma Modern Hospital	(09)983323
IBRD:	
Prince Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)275555
Al-Nafes Hospital	(02)275555
AQABA:	
Prince Hava Hospital	(03)214111

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200. 5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
08:30	Bangkok (RJ)
07:45	Amman (RJ)
08:35	Jeddah (RJ)
09:00	Damascus (RJ)
09:05	Larnaca (RJ)
09:55	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:15	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:20	Brussels, Paris (RJ)
17:35	London (RJ)
18:10	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
18:40	Abbas (RJ)
18:45	Frankfurt (RJ)
19:35	Vienna (RJ)
20:00	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
20:00	Rome (RJ)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
08:30	Amman (RJ)
07:45	Beirut (RJ)
08:35	Zagreb (add) (RJ)
09:00	Frankfurt (RJ)
09:05	Rome (RJ)
11:15	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:30	Tunis, Cas





Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday chairs a seminar on the role of Arab women in urban development (Petra photo)

## Princess Basma opens seminar on role of Arab women in urban development

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday opened a seminar on the role of Arab women in urban development by calling on Arab women to work collectively in helping their communities deal with socio-economic issues and confronting common challenges.

Women's issues in general and particularly women's role in public life are attracting the attention of various nations; such issues are of a magnitude that require the efforts of both women and men, said the Princess at the opening session.

In the last few decades, the role of women has developed and become more prominent largely because of educational opportunities open to them on equal footing with men, Princess Basma said.

Poverty and its adverse consequences represent a general framework for socio-economic problems in any society, said Princess Basma, adding that all de-

velopment plans can in no way achieve their objectives unless they are applicable and help uproot the causes of poverty.

Organised by the Jordanian National Committee for Women's Affairs (JNCWA) in cooperation with the U.N. Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the meeting is attended by delegates from eight Arab countries in addition to Jordan.

The participants to the two-day meeting, which is part of preparations for the U.N.-sponsored conference on Habitat due to be held in Turkey in June 1996, will tackle issues related to Arab women's needs and responsibilities, and preparations for the coming conference at the Arab level, and will revise a draft Arab declaration on habitat to be submitted to the conference.

Princess Basma, who is president of the Jordanian committee, paid tribute to the role of the various United Nations agencies and the non-governmental

organisations which she said aided government efforts in dealing with many of the problems related to women.

Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Razzaq Ensour addressed the opening session, calling on Arab women to activate their roles and increase their participation in the formulation of policies, programmes and projects related to habitat. He said habitat questions have a direct effect on women and their role in bringing up a family.

Referring to problems of major cities, the minister said that most of the housing projects in developing countries are conducted at random, without proper planning.

In many of the Arab cities, the needs of women are neglected, the cities are ill-planned, lacking the elements of sustainable development, and they are places where most of the poor, who form 25 per cent of the Arab population, live, said Mr. Ensour.

## IMF starts forum to familiarise media with workings of world economic monitor

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Senior officials of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Saturday launched an effort to familiarise the media with intricacies of the workings of the world economic watchdog, often the target of accusations that its "prescriptions" were behind the problems that the people of the third world face.

The two-day forum, the first of its kind to be held in Jordan, aims at giving a detailed picture of the IMF and what parameters it applies while discussing the economies of its 179 member states and possible financial assistance for fiscal restructuring wherever seen necessary.

The basic principle that guides the IMF is that it is a "completely voluntary" organisation which does not seek to impose its will on any country, said Ahmad Abushadi, a senior official of the Washington-based body.

"Any country could join and leave the organisation whenever it wants," Mr. Abushadi told the first working session of the forum, organised by the Arab Institute for Banking and Financial Studies, an Amman-based agency of the Arab League.

"The IMF offers advice and recommendations in a strict advisory capacity as its first task, and it does not oblige anybody to undertake any specified programme as part of its function," said Mr. Abushadi.

But if the IMF was approached by a member state with a request for financial aid to "address temporary structural problems in economy," then the world body would closely study the situation of the individual country and come up with definite conditions attached to the financing, he said.

"We have to make sure that the (beneficiary country) is in a position to repay the credit facility, and as such, the leading role of the IMF is conditional on economic reforms," said Mr. Abushadi, whose presentation was entitled, "The Role and Functions of the IMF."

Effectively, that would mean that if any country wants credit from the IMF to address its economic problem, then it also has to be

prepared to undertake corrective measures to address flaws or mistakes in its approach, explained Edouard Maciejewski, another IMF official.

As a rule, the IMF leaves it to the concerned government how to present the corrective measures — which could often prove to be politically disturbing and socially explosive — to its people, and refrains from discussing them in public.

"It is for the concerned governments to decide whether and how to communicate the details of the discussions with the IMF to the media," Mr. Maciejewski said.

The IMF official did not elaborate on this point. But there was wide consensus that the secrecy-shrouded approach of most third world governments to unravelling the "corrective measures" that often involve withdrawal/reduction of subsidies, higher taxes, etc. provides an air of "conspiracy."

And this in turn fuels the media, which finds the IMF as any easy target to be singled out and attacked for the rise in market prices — as subsidies reduced or withdrawn — and higher taxes to meet the government's need to increase revenues.

A case in point is Jordan itself, experts say. They blame the media for the large part of the attacks against the fiscal restructuring programme under way in Jordan under IMF supervision.

But journalists counter the charge, pointing out that if they were given enough information on the programme and "corrective measures" then they could have done a better job of presenting them to the public rather than be taken by surprise by government announcement of action without notice.

On the other hand, government officials say that it is economically unwise to announce proposed measures in advance if only because of the negative impact such announcements may have on the market — where traders may exploit the situation — and the society as a whole.

The whole objective of the forum being held in Amman is to avert that kind of situation by going deeper into the issue; to inform the media of how the IMF works, and how an individual country in eco-



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Khaled Karaki (centre) Saturday presides over a forum on the role of the International Monetary Fund (Petra photo)

omic strains could secure IMF help in return for basic self-reliance oriented reforms that, in the long run, would be more beneficial than the short-term negativity.

To ensure that countries abide by the agreement to implement reforms, the IMF releases credits in tranches with a view to "monitoring the (phased) implementation of the corrective measures," Mr. Maciejewski told the gathering, attended mostly by government officials dealing with economic issues and a few media representatives and columnists who cover economic news.

Offering technical advice on various aspects of economy and exchanging information are the third and fourth tasks of the IMF, which is administered by a 24-member board of governors, elected every two years.

In the second working session on Saturday, Mr. Maciejewski discussed "IMF-supported Macroeconomic Stabilisation and Structural Adjustment — An Evolving Process."

A group discussion was held in the afternoon under the title "Economic Policy, Public Interest and the Role of the Media."

On Sunday, Mr. Maciejewski will present "Design

of IMF-Supported Structural Adjustment Programmes — Key Policy Instruments and Structural Reform Components." In the second session during the day, Mr. Abushadi and Mr. Maciejewski will present "Economic Reform in the Arab Countries and Future Challenges."

Central Bank of Jordan Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi will address the third session and chair a panel discussion on "The IMF and the Arab Countries."

Highlighted during Saturday's meetings were the key differences between the IMF and the World Bank. The lecturers sought to emphasise that the workings of the two institutions were distinctly different in terms of scope as well as definite areas covered.

First and foremost, the IMF acts in a consultative and advisory capacity to all governments, the World Bank assists the general development process.

While the World Bank's work is strictly limited to helping developing countries attain self-reliance and efficiency through specific programmes in the various sectors of the economy, the IMF deals with and is available for consultations to all its 179 member countries.

The specific objective of the IMF is to ensure the

sound economic performance of countries largely on the external front, particularly when the actions of one country could negatively affect another which might have economic links with the former. The World Bank's task is to launch initiatives that would address basic flaws in internal economic approaches through tailored development programmes.

The Amman forum is held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, who was represented at the opening session by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Khaled Karaki.

At the opening session, Arab Institute for Banking and Financial Studies Director-General Musa Hodeida said the forum — formally titled "International Monetary Fund and the Arab Countries: Present and Future," was the first "annual press and media forum" to be organised by the institute.

He said the institute was planning to highlight one particular issue every year under this banner.

Dr. Nabulsi also addressed the meeting, emphasising the importance of a free exchange of views — "a media dialogue" — and in-depth briefing of the media on the complexities related to the work of the IMF.



Girl guides and boy scouts Saturday for a demonstration flight over Amman board a Bombardier Dash 8-300 aircraft (Photo by Rana Hussein)

## Canadian firm conducts demonstration flights for RJ

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Bombardier, a Canadian aircraft manufacturer, Saturday ran two demonstration flights of its Dash 8-300 for Royal Jordanian (RJ) officials, and as an added treat invited 30 girl guides and boy scouts to see Amman from above, as part of the company's bid to market the aircraft in the region.

The pressurised, twin engine propeller plane took off from Marka Airport. On the first demonstration flight the pilot circled Amman for about 15 minutes at a relatively low altitude. The second flight took 40 minutes, and the pilots demonstrated most

of the features and capabilities of the aircraft designed for regional transportation.

Bombardier is the first of six companies worldwide to demonstrate its aircraft in RJ's search for a regional and short-distance plane for its fleet.

RJ Public Relations Executive Assistant Munib Toukan said RJ is looking for a plane that can transport passengers on short routes from Amman to Aqaba, Taba, and on some occasions to Beirut and Damascus.

According to Mr. Toukan, other companies from the United States, France and Great Britain are expected to demonstrate their aircraft in the near future.

Andrew Robinson, Canadian ambassador to Jordan, who boarded both demonstration flights Saturday, said that the reason the aircraft company chose Jordan is that the aircraft is particularly suited for regional transport and can help Jordan economically.

"As the economies of the region intermesh, the Dash 8 could provide invaluable help in filling many of Jordan's expanding transportation needs," Mr. Robinson added.

Jeffrey Lowe, director of international sales at the Bombardier said that with peace in the region and economic growth, there is a great opportunity for every aircraft company to compete.

## Commerce groups sign economic agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman Chamber of Commerce Saturday signed an agreement with the Chamber of Commerce responsible for the commercial, industrial and agricultural sectors in the Gaza Strip, paving the way for close cooperation in economic and trade affairs.

Signed by Haidar Murad, president of the Amman Chamber of Commerce, and the Gaza chamber chairman, Mohammad Qudweh, the agreement provides for the two sides to exchange expertise and conduct direct contacts and consultations over trade matters, according to an Amman Chamber of Commerce statement.

The two sides pledged to cooperate in and coordinate matters concerning mutual trade as well as trade with other Arab and foreign countries; organise joint trade and industrial exhibitions and exchange information and visits by officials on a regular basis, said the statement.

Under the agreement, the Amman chamber will organise training courses for the Gaza chamber staff and will offer Gazan investors all possible related facilities.

In statements upon signing the accord, Mr. Murad and Mr. Qudweh emphasised the unique and strong ties between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples, stressing the need for more efforts on the part of the private sectors on both sides to contribute towards economic and trade integration.

They also expressed hope that the agreement would advance trade exchanges and serve as a bridge for strengthening ties.

Last week, the chambers of commerce of Amman and Nabulus signed a protocol to promote trade and investments in Jordan and Palestine, and the Nabulus chamber also signed an agreement with the Amman Chamber of Industry on cooperation in exchange of information and participation in events organised by the Jordanian industrial community.

Implementation of article 22 of U.N. Resolution 687.

The article allows Iraq to resume oil exports once its weapons of mass destruction have been dismantled and long-term monitoring of its weapons programmes has been launched — conditions Baghdad argues it has already fulfilled.

Iraq used to produce 3.2 million barrels per day (bpd) before the U.N. sanctions were imposed.

Mr. Aziz said the next U.N. Security Council meeting on the sanctions would be "more favourable towards Iraq" because the United States was "more and more isolated."

In an allusion to France, Russia and China, which have called for an easing of the international embargo, Mr. Aziz said the attitude of some Security Council members was changing "in a way which could isolate the United States and Britain even more."

The U.N. Security Council renewed the embargo for another two months on January 10.

Iraqi Oil Minister Safa Hadi Jawad said Wednesday Iraq could become the second largest producer in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries once the U.N. oil embargo was lifted.

## Iraq may accept limited oil sales

(Continued from page 1)

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Minister of Industry and Trade Ali . Abul Ragheb Saturday presides over a seminar on quality management and ISO 9000 (Petra photo)

## Trade minister urges industries to comply with ISO standards

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb Saturday urged all industrial institutions in the country to comply with the specifications and standards set by the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) so that their products can be marketed abroad.

Addressing the opening session of a three-day meeting organised in cooperation with ISO, the minister said that every industrial firm in Jordan can apply ISO standards to improve products and management.

Abiding by the requirements of ISO means meeting the basic prerequisites of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) which are highly beneficial to Jordan's trade with other nations, stressed Mr. Abul Ragheb.

Jordan's attentiveness to maintaining product quality, standards and specifications by its establishment of the Jordanian Institution for Standardisation and Metrology (JISM), an independent department, said the minister.

JISM, which replaced the Department for Standards and Specifications at the Ministry of Industry, began operations five days ago and organised the current meeting in cooperation with ISO, Mr. Abul Ragheb said.

Organised at the Philadelphia Hotel in cooperation with the ISO, the German Institute for Standardisation, the German Society for Quality and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation, the meeting is attended by delegates from Jordan as well as Lebanon, Bahrain, Kuwait and Syria, representing various private and public industrial organisations.

The meeting, held under the theme "Quality Management and ISO-9000," will discuss managing industrial businesses, standardisation, and other related issues, and will focus on case studies from the participating as well as industrialised nations.

In his address to the meeting Mr. Abul Ragheb said standardisation is a major element to helping a country absorb modern technology, ensuring economic development, encouraging investments and increasing the production of quality products.

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## WHAT'S GOING ON

★ Film entitled "Amadeus" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

★ Lecture (in Arabic) entitled "Is There an Israeli Literature?" by Mr. Salah Hazeen at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

★ Exhibition of works by Iraqi artist Fakhr Muhammad at the Ab'ad Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of "Arab Contemporary Art" at Mona Saudi studio, Abdoun

village (Tel. 829700).

★ Exhibition of the works of Lebanese artist Amin Al Basha at Darat Al Funun. Also showing another exhibition entitled "Phase II-Doors and Windows" by Jordanian artist Ghada Dahdaleh and works by contemporary Arab artists.

★ Exhibition of works by Spanish artist Covadonga Sarragusa at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).



## Fear grips Tokyo residents in wake of Kobe disaster

TOKYO (AFP) — Dramatic images of the Kobe earthquake and alarmist media forecasts have heightened fears among Tokyo residents of another "Big One" in the capital, boosting sales of emergency supplies and survival kits.

"Kobe forces you to think about the risks. A lot of people I know tried to find out what to do and where to go after a quake," said Yuko, a young student.

"My father, who is the president of a bank, held a meeting with his colleagues to discuss how to supply cash to customers in a disaster," she said.

A day after the Tuesday quake, department stores here opened sections specialising in the sale of survival kits which all households are supposed to have. The kits include torches, helmets, fire-resistant masks, first-aid kits, rope ladders, candles, dehydrated food and survival blankets.

Stocks of emergency supplies quickly dried up, especially the stocks of fireproof bags which contain everything needed to survive for a few days.

Some stores have since been directing their customers to the camping goods section, leading to a similar boom in tent and sleeping bag sales.

Newspapers are hardly reassuring for residents of Tokyo, ravaged by a huge earthquake in 1923 which left 140,000 people dead.

On Saturday, newspapers published simulations

of what would happen in Tokyo if a quake similar to the Kobe temblor hit the capital.

If such a quake struck at six o'clock in the evening, it would kill and injure an estimated 860,000 people, while a pre-dawn quake like the one in Kobe would claim 68,000 victims.

Within minutes of a quake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale, the Japanese capital would be engulfed by about a thousand fires compared with 200 in Kobe — and 154 hectares would be destroyed in the first hour.

On Friday, the Japan Times, an English-language newspaper widely read by foreigners, inflamed the fears of an expatriate population already alarmed.

"The number of quakes strong enough to be felt by people has increased sharply in the Tokyo area since December. Ten such quakes were reported last month and the same number has been reported so far this month, prompting fears that a major earthquake could hit soon," the newspaper said.

But such activity, "could merely be a coincidence," an official at the meteorological agency was quoted as saying.

Claude Gernot, director of the Lycee Franco-Japonais in Tokyo, said his high school wasn't taking any chances.

"Before the Kobe earthquake, this abnormal seismic activity had led us to plan evacuation and fire-fighting exercises next

week," he said.

But parents are alarmed. "We've really been disturbed by the breakdown in relief activities in Kobe," one mother said. "We're realising that it's not as safe as they say."

Meetings between teachers and parents have led to plans for new safety measures, notably the reinforcing of classroom windows to prevent injuries from shattered glass.

Fears of a major quake in Tokyo have long been taken seriously by the school which adopts the same measures as Japanese schools.

During the summer holidays last year, the old building which houses the school was reinforced with 26 metal supports weighing two tonnes. Each of the 320 students has a helmet, water supplies, food and survival blankets.

Evacuation exercises take place once a year and the older kids in charge of the younger children "take their role very seriously," Mr. Gernot said.

On Saturday, the national television network Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) tried to reassure viewers by showing basic survival techniques such as how to cook on a stove made from beer cans and how to carry water in plastic bags.

"We shouldn't dramatise the situation but during the current mood, a lot of foreigners will be leaving with the first major tremor," Gernot said.



Rescue workers search through the rubble of a collapsed house in Nishinomiya, western Japan (AFP photo)

## Earthquake damage at a glance

KOBE (AP) — A brief outline of casualties and damage in the earthquake that struck the Kobe region, as of early Saturday morning:

Casualties: 4,555 dead, 665 missing, more than 23,760 injured, making Tuesday's quake Japan's most deadly since the 1923 Tokyo quake, in which more than 142,000 died.

Cities: In descending order of fatalities: Kobe, Takarazuka, Nishinomiya, Ashiya, Awaji island and Osaka. Treasured Buddha statues and a five-story pagoda built in 951 in the ancient capital, Kyoto, suffered minor damage.

Buildings: More than 44,680 destroyed or badly damaged.

Electricity: Because of damage to transmission lines or substations, a blackout continued for 110,000 households, according to Kansai Electric Co.

Gas: 849,500 households were without gas, according to Osaka Gas Co. Service was suspended because of fears of leaks from damaged pipelines.

Water: Water supply to about one million households was suspended because of pipe damage, according to the health and welfare ministry.

Ports: Kobe's port, which handles more than 12 per cent of Japan's exports, closed except for emergency use. Ferry terminals also closed. The Ministry of Transport assessing damage to determine when they might reopen.

Highways: Hanshin Expressway, a major artery between Osaka and Kobe, collapsed in five places, including one 500-metre (550-yard) section; 12 drivers reported killed as their cars fell from the highway. Bay coast highway in Osaka collapsed on section of reclaimed land; two killed. Other national roads damaged at 20 sites.

Railroads: Lines for the high-speed "bullet" trains damaged at 36 places over a length of about 90 kilometres. One link restored to service. Railroad officials estimate at least three months will be needed for repairs to track and bridges.

A ski train with 200 passengers and nine other trains derailed, with seven people reported injured.

Airports: Kobe is served by Osaka Airport and Kansai International Airport, on a manmade island off Osaka. Neither suffered major damage, and service continued.

## Kashmir faces food shortage after avalanche

JAMMU, India (R) — The Kashmir valley is facing a serious food shortage with supplies held up by avalanches that halted traffic on a key Himalayan highway in India's worst snow disaster, residents said Saturday.

"Srinagar's lifeline has been cut off," Nazir Ahmad, a resident of the summer capital of the northernmost state of Jammu and Kashmir, told Reuters by telephone. "There is little to eat and we are in trouble."

Massive landslides blocked the strategic national highway that links Jammu, the winter capital, with Srinagar. Srinagar is usually in the news for a Muslim separatist uprising in the state.

Police said about 110 people were killed by the avalanches, but authorities in New Delhi have confirmed only 60 deaths. Unconfirmed reports say 250 may have been killed.

Vegetables, mutton, chicken and eggs, which have to come from the southern region to snowbound Kashmir in winter, were in short supply, Mr. Ahmad said. They cost twice as much as usual, and the price of kerosene has shot up six times, he said.

Only pulses and turnips were freely available, he said.

The army airlifted 40 tonnes of rations and charcoal to Srinagar, an official in the city said, adding a relief camp was set up in downtown Srinagar to house 350 victims.

Bad weather was disrupting relief work, he said.

The army and air force have rescued about 5,000 stranded people but 48 more — 17 women, 16 children and 15 seniors — are trapped inside the Jawahar tunnel after snow and avalanches cut off a key Himalayan highway, officials said in Jammu.

The army air dropped blankets and boots near the two-mile long tunnel which is 90 kilometres south of Srinagar, they said.

Traffic has been disrupted for six days.

Officials who were tracking vehicles that left Srinagar last Sunday said three private buses were abandoned and

one was missing, and 24 state-run buses were stranded and eight missing. At least 600 cargo trucks and an unknown number of private vehicles were also trapped.

Some 240 passengers trekked to safety through three-metre deep snow for 10 kilometres from the tunnel that forms part of the 290 kilometre highway.

Hundreds of people were housed in schools and army camps and provided with food and medicine, officials said.

The highway, known for its snow and winds, was closed for the first two months of every year before the tunnel was built in the 1950s.

## Pope beatifies Sri Lanka priest at colourful mass

COLOMBO (R) — Pope John Paul beatified Father Joseph Vaz, a 17th-century Goan missionary who made Sri Lanka his home, at an impressive oceanic mass in Colombo Saturday as tens of thousands of devout Catholics cheered and sang hymns.

The 74-year-old Pope, who looked more rested and fitter during the three-hour ceremony than he did on his arrival in Sri Lanka Friday, went through the crowds in his "Popemobile," accepting their greetings and blessing them before ascending the altar-platform for the beatification mass.

He arrived to a tumultuous welcome from what police described as a crowd of 300,000. Reporters covering the event on the shores of the Indian Ocean put the figure much lower.

The Pope, who is winding up a gruelling 11-day Asia-Pacific tour that has also taken him to the Philippines, Papua New Guinea and Australia, was received by a Sri Lankan family when he appeared on the huge red and gold altar-platform at Galle Face Green in Colombo. The mass was the last major event of his 24-hour visit to Sri Lanka.

The crowds waved and cheered lustily when the Pope stepped on the stage in his full regalia and sat on a white throne-like chair amid

beating of traditional drums and blowing of conch shells. He then lit a brass lamp signifying the beginning of the beatification ceremony.

"This is a day of special happiness for Christ's followers in Sri Lanka. From the very beginning of my pontificate, whenever I have had the occasion to meet your bishops, they have told me their great desire to see Father Vaz raised to the honours of the altar," the Pope said.

"Today Joseph Vaz, the Apostle of Sri Lanka, has been proclaimed one of the blessed in heaven," he said after reading out the papal document beatifying the missionary.

The mass, conducted in English, Sinhalese and Tamil on a cloudy morning, was heard in devout silence by the crowd, many of whom had travelled from different parts of the country and weathered overnight rains to see the Pope.

"I felt a sense of peace on seeing him," said Winifreda de Silva, 70, who had come from Kandy for the mass. She was among 70 people selected to receive Holy Communion from the Pope.

About 1,000 priest and nuns moved out among the huge crowd to distribute the holy communion to the devout. Several were seen falling to their knees to accept it.

"I am very happy to be here. He is very holy for me and a blessing for my family," said Maureen Peris from Catholic-dominated Negombo, several miles south of Colombo.

"It is a dream come true seeing the keeper of the world's moral conscience," said Colombo Church worker Maurice Lord.

Later traditional offerings of food and handicrafts were made to the Pope by pilgrims representing different parts of the island.

The Pope then came down a few steps to the altar to lead the crowds into prayer. He was helped by an aide.

They also heard him call for an end to Sri Lanka's 12-year civil war in which about 30,000 people have been killed. He said the fighting between Tamil Tiger guerrillas, who are demanding a separate homeland for 3.2 million Tamil minority in the north and east, and the Sinhalese majority should end.

He called for "a definitive end to the tragic violence which has cost so many lives."

"When lasting peace comes, all Sri Lankans will be blessed and your country will be restored in its full dignity and greatness. May Almighty God achieve this through you," he said.

## Evidence from Bloomingdale's ties Simpson to killings — prosecution

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Testimony from Bloomingdale's employees will show that O.J. Simpson had gloves from the New York department store identical to the ones found stained with blood after the killings of his ex-wife and a friend, a prosecutor said Friday.

The allegation came during a hearing at which superior court judge Lance Ito agreed to a defence request to bar the Bloomingdale's material from the earlier stages of the trial. Mr. Ito also barred some early use of material about alleged domestic abuse in Mr. Simpson's marriage.

Simpson, a former U.S. football star, is accused of killing his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.

Deputy district attorney Cheri Lewis said eight Bloomingdale's employees would testify about "the possession of gloves identical to those collected at the crime scene and (Mr. Simpson's house) and how they came to be acquired by the defendant."

She also said fingerprints at the crime appear to be those of a pair of Bruno Magli shoes. Bloomingdale's in New York sells about 10 different styles of the expensive Italian brand of shoe.

Ms. Lewis didn't say whether prosecutors believed Mr. Simpson bought the gloves and shoes himself, or whether the items were purchased from the store by someone else.

Defence attorney Carl Douglas said testimony about the shoes has little foundation.

"There are no pairs of shoes that are in Mr. Simpson's possession ... that match any of the footprints," he said.

He asked Judge Ito to bar the use of the Bloomingdale's witnesses until Mr. Simpson



O.J. Simpson

testified at the preliminary hearing that he found a bloody glove behind Mr. Simpson's mansion — the seeming match to the one found near the bodies of Ms. Simpson and Mr. Goldman.

Defence lawyers say Mr. Fuhrman has a well-documented history of bigotry and could have planted the glove to frame Mr. Simpson, a black man accused of murdering his white ex-wife and her white friend.

At a news conference Thursday, Mr. Fuhrman's attorney Robert Tourtelot and private investigator Anthony Pellicano said they have dug into the pasts of the people making the allegations against Mr. Fuhrman and will challenge their credibility in court.

One other pending matter is whether jurors should be told from the start that they must feel a "moral certainty" in order to convict Mr. Simpson.

Normally, instructions are not given to the jury until testimony is over and deliberations are about to begin.

Mr. Ito decided to give instructions right away to help guide jurors during the trial. He also will give instructions just before deliberations begin.

Prosecutors, apparently worried they will be held to a higher standard because of Mr. Simpson's fame and amiable image, want jurors told before opening statements that they can convict Mr. Simpson only if they feel guilt was proved beyond a reasonable doubt.

The reasonable doubt instruction is often followed by the words "and to a moral certainty." The prosecution wants that phrase deleted.

Mr. Simpson's lawyers want Mr. Ito to keep it. Mr. Ito's office said today that that decision would be released Monday.

Mr. Ito before opening statements is whether defence attorneys can accuse a police detective of racism. Mr. Ito said today that he was still working on a written ruling.

The prosecution wants any allegations of racism against detective Mark Fuhrman, including a woman's claim that he used the word "nigger" and disliked interracial couples — excluded from the trial. Prosecutors say "inflammatory and irrelevant character evidence" could blind the predominantly black jury to the importance of Mr. Fuhrman's testimony.

Although prosecutors have said they will limit Mr. Fuhrman's testimony to the bare essentials, he is a critical wit-

## Bulgaria interim government alleges high-level corruption

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria's interim government published a list of alleged offences by former senior officials on Saturday and accused the judiciary of failing to act.

In a report on its three-month administration, due to end next week with the appointment of a replacement by the newly-elected leftist parliament, the government listed seven cases it said had been handed to the chief prosecutor.

They involved the expenses of the former non-party government, which resigned in September after losing parliamentary support, and specific allegations against a former deputy prime minister and the former industry minister.

The prosecutor's office had responded to only one of the cases and many other criminal cases remained unsolved, said the report, carried exclusively by the Standard daily.

"Delays in judicial procedures... create a feeling of inaccessibility and impunity within the criminal commun-

ity and destroy popular faith in the judicial system," said the report.

"That in turn encourages crime and creates conditions for the appearance of criminal groups with their own private rule of law," it said.

The report, a copy of which was handed to President Zhelyu Zhelev on Friday, said the interim cabinet had made progress in controlling the activities of private security firms, accused by Mr. Zhelev of poisoning post-communist Bulgaria by racketeering.

It went on to list other achievements ranging from a stable local currency to a reduction in the number of reported rapes and car thefts and "good organisation" of the Dec. 18 parliamentary poll which the cabinet was appointed to prepare.

Interim Prime Minister Reneta Indzhova, who has repeatedly said Bulgaria is becoming a mafia state and is deeply suspicious of the media, gave the report to Standard because it agreed to

publish it unedited, government sources said.

Over four pages filled with small print is listed government meetings and decrees and a number of senior officials who had been fired with the reasons for their dismissal.

The list included the national police chief and his deputy, heads of the border guards and members of the committee for tourism, accused of trying to block privatisation.

Ms. Indzhova, a 41-year-old economist and Bulgaria's first female prime minister, issued the report after calls to account for her government by the Bulgarian Socialist Party of former communists which won a decisive victory in the December poll.

She refused to appear before parliament, but the socialists, who have accused her cabinet of unjustified purges, said the government's actions will be reviewed by the next cabinet, which is expected to be voted in next week.

## Break-in brings more prison trouble for Britain

LONDON (R) — Britain's troubled prison system suffered a new blow Friday following reports a woman broke into jail to spend the night with her lesbian lover. The prison service said security had been increased at Styal women's prison in Cheshire after a former inmate reportedly slipped in and out of the northern England jail. The controversy began last month, when a hole was found in the perimeter fence. A roll-call found nobody was missing. But a woman who was an inmate at the time has now told the Manchester Evening News that an intruder slipped in and spent the night with a prisoner in a dormitory. The guest reportedly hid under her lover's bed during a night-time security check.

"Those allegations cannot be proved. But obviously, while he (the prison governor) was unable to prove them he has acted to ensure security is better in the future," said a prison service spokesman.

The incident is the latest in a line of embarrassments for Britain's prison system, which has suffered a rash of escapes and tales that some convicts enjoy lavish treatment by their keepers. The Cheshire jail, too, is no stranger to controversy. Last year, an axe murderer was allowed out for a shopping trip to the city of Leeds, while 12 months earlier an inmate was forced to give birth handcuffed to a prison officer.

## Bigamist's wives must share pension, court says

KASSEL, Germany (R) — A German court ruled Friday that two of a bigamist's three widows had to share his pension — but the wife he married first should get more.

Georg Menzel married in 1949, separated 6 years later and in 1962 married again without getting a divorce. When he died, welfare officers awarded the earlier wife a larger share of the pension because she had technically been married longer. Mr. Menzel's later wife appealed — but the federal social insurance court ruled, the welfare officers were right. For good measure, it actually turned out that Mr. Menzel had three wives simultaneously, having married for the first time in 1941. He then lost contact with his wife but failed to divorce her. Bigamy is illegal in Germany.

## Ivan the Gorilla to pick soulmate

ATLANTA, Georgia (AFP) — Zookeepers in Atlanta are playing matchmaker to Ivan the Gorilla, who hasn't seen another specimen of his kind since he was captured in Africa 30 years ago. Ivan, who has spent most of his life on display at a mall, was moved to the zoo after a campaign by animal rights activists and gorilla experts. In Atlanta, the gorilla will be able to look over the three females selected by zookeepers. Ivan will indicate his selection by crooning a throaty rumble. Kyle Burks, a graduate student working with Ivan through the difficult transition, said his charge "knows something big is going to happen." Burks added: "He's more than ready."

## Vandals steal battle-axe from Louvre

PARIS (AFP) — Vandals ripped a heavy bronze battle-axe from a sculpture at the prestigious Louvre Museum, walking out of the building unhindered with their trophy in the third glaring security lapse in six months, the museum said Friday. It was the second theft in a month and the third in six months from the world's biggest museum under the noses of security staff. Thieves removed the 20-kilogramme halberd — a combination battle-axe and spear used by 15th century infantry — on Wednesday night from a sculpture by the 17th century artist Martin Desjardins. Museum officials said it required considerable force to break off the halberd, constituting the 1.14 metre upper part of the weapon. It was damaged along with the rest of the sculpture. The "act of vandalism" took place in the newly refurbished Richelieu wing of the museum under the noses of four guards, the officials said. They said the trophy could have no real value and added they were "some kind of provocation."

business daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

## Thousands of farmers benefit from ACC

The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) extended a total of JD14.3 million in loans to 5,687 farmers last year. The 4,986 projects included setting up new farms on reclaimed land. According to the ACC chief, 80 per cent of the loans benefited small farmers. He said that 70 per cent of the borrowers were obtaining credits for the first time. Repayments of loans totalled JD12.3 million, compared to JD10.5 million in 1993. The ACC had written off loans extended between Jan. 1, 1981, and Sept. 30, 1994, based on Royal Decrees to ease farmers' financial burden and support the agricultural sector. The cancellation of interest covered more than 50,000 small debtors, or about 88 per cent of all who benefited from the Royal directive (AI Dastur).

## Small and low-income farmers will be able to benefit from large-scale project to be implemented next month by the Ministry of Agriculture with the financing coming from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) (JD 10 million) (JD 9 million).

The project, to be implemented over seven years, will benefit 8,000 rural families who will be helped by the ministry to raise pure Shami and improved sheep, process dairy products and grow fruit trees (AI Ra'i).

Farmer social affairs minister Mohammad Sgour is the most likely candidate to fill the post of director-general of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO). The JCO's situation is going to be studied in order to find the most suitable solutions to its financial difficulties (AI Dastur).

Some sources at the central bank suspect that the forged JD20 bill was printed in an Arab Country (AI Dastur).

The Natural Resources Authority will next week start drilling two new wells for gas production in the Rubeh area. The two wells will increase the production volume from 30 million cubic metres a day to 40 million. Gas production from the Rubeh area has reached 39 million cubic metres since the field was discovered in 1989. Oil production from Hamzah field has reached 70,000 barrels since the field was discovered in 1985 (AI Ra'i).

The Association of Pharmacists intends to increase membership fees to JD20 from JD10 for each pharmacist working as an employee. Owners of pharmacies will pay JD60 each while those who are not will pay JD60. The association, whose membership exceeded 3,500, also intends to assess fees on some pharmacies not been subjected to assessments in accordance with the internal regulations of the association (AI Ra'i).

Real Estate Investment Co (Akarco) is accepting subscription for new shares issued to all its shareholders registered on Jan. 8, 1995. The new shares, priced at JD 1.5 (JD 1 par value plus JD 0.5 premium), reflect the increase in the company's capital by JD 3.75 million. The last day for this private subscription is Feb. 16, 1995 (AI Ra'i).

It has been officially confirmed that the government will present to the Lower House of Parliament next month the draft law for encouraging investment which would guarantee the department of encouraging investment an administrative independence (AI Ra'i).



# Bihac fighting subsides as truce holds

**SARAJEVO (R)** — Fighting in the Bihac pocket in north-west Bosnia subsided on Saturday but the United Nations reported minor violations of a three-week ceasefire, including an exchange of gunfire in Sarajevo.

Two Bosnian Serbs and a government soldier were wounded late on Friday in a small-scale duel centred on the Serb-held district of Grbavica in the Bosnian capital, U.N. spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward said.

The incident began when soldiers of Bosnia's Muslim army opened fire on the area and the Serbs responded, he said.

Two loud explosions were heard at midnight but the district was quiet on Saturday morning. The reasons behind the clash were not immediately known.

Mr. Coward said Bosnia was generally quiet with clashes easing in the Bihac pocket.

The U.N. reported nine explosions west of Bihac town and 55 east and south-east of Velika Kladusa, north of Bihac — fewer than one-tenth of the detonations counted on Thursday.

Despite the calm, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, head of U.N. forces in Bosnia, told reporters on Friday that the ceasefire process was losing momentum as the Bosnian government and Serb forces were dragging their feet over pledges made in the new year's U.N.-brokered accord.

"Things are not going as rapidly as we hoped," said Rose, who ends his year-long assignment in Bosnia Jan. 24.

"What people are waiting for is a sign of political movement, particularly by the Bosnian Serbs, before committing to implementation procedures," he said.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter helped forge the most serious ceasefire agreement so far in the 33-month old war, which has seen countless similar truces collapse.

The agreement was intended to halt hostilities for the next four months and envisaged several confidence-building measures to enable the rivals to negotiate a political settlement to end the worst crisis in Europe since World War II.

Signs of fresh discord between Bosnian Croats and Muslims emerged in the southern city of Mostar, threatening the federation the two sides set up last year after some of the most ferocious fighting seen in Bosnia.

A high-level Croatian government delegation, including Prime Minister Nikica Valentic, foreign and defence ministers Mate Granic and Gojko Sosak, met European Union officials who are helping to administer the divided city.

"This delegation shows how great is our wish to help bring about the agreements on the EU administration in Mostar, which Croatia... fully supports," Mr. Valentic told Croatian radio.

Mostar's administrator Hans Koschnick, a German appointed by the EU to try to reconcile Muslims and Croats, had accused the Croats of blocking his efforts to reunite the city, return refugees to their homes and rebuild trust.

Mostar is regarded as a potential symbol of Muslim-Croat reconciliation and any threat to rebuilding the shattered city could unravel the already fragile federation.

The alliance has come under strain after international contact group mediators trying to forge peace in the republic reportedly shifted its position to permit a constitutional linkage between the Bosnian Serbs and Serbia.

This has led Bosnian Croat nationalists to believe that the international community has effectively accepted the division of Bosnia.

A report in Saturday's New York Times indicated a further diplomatic shift on the part of the United States, saying Washington may open talks with Bosnian Serb leaders.

The paper said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told the Bosnian government in a letter that the latest truce had created "a possible opportunity to renew the negotiations" with the Serbs which "we should not allow to pass by."

# Balladur rallies centrists as socialists seek peace



Edouard Balladur

**PARIS (R)** — Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, runaway favourite to succeed President Francois Mitterrand in May, Saturday secured the backing of the small but influential centrist party.

On the other side of the political spectrum, socialist leaders cautioned that rivalry between candidates seeking their party's nomination was becoming a fratricidal war which could prevent a socialist from reaching the run-off phase of the two-stage poll on April 23 and May 7.

Education Minister Francois Bayrou, leader of the Social Democratic Centre (CDS), said in an interview published on Saturday in the daily Le Monde that moderate conservative Mr. Balladur was the best placed to spearhead a coalition straddling the political centre.

"All those who form a majority which until now has been dispersed and powerless in France must unite in a party for government stretching from the centre-right to the centre-left," Mr. Bayrou was quoted as saying.

The new alliance, he added, could unite part of Mr. Balladur's Gaullist Rally for the Republic (RPR) and his centre-right ruling partner the Union for French Democracy, as well as the Republican Party, some socialists and "realist greens."

"(People behind the new

appeared set to descend deeper into fractious disarray.

Segolene Royal, a rising party star, said the contest for the nomination involving leader Henri Emmanuelli, former party boss Lionel Jospin and former Culture Minister Jack Lang would prompt "old quarrels that have nothing to do with the election."

"If the nomination vote (on Feb. 3) ends with a narrow result, the minority will challenge it. Given the intense tension in the party, how can we expect the minority to quietly join forces with the rest?" she asked.

Mr. Royal and other moderate socialists who had backed Jacques Delors as their candidate until he pulled out last month, appealed for an end to "manoeuvres and veiled battles whose only aim is control of (the party)." Mr. Delors stepped down this month after two terms as president of the European Commission, the European Union's Brussels-based executive.

The nomination bid by orthodox left-winger Emmanuelli drew support from about 40 regional party bosses and about 50 parliamentarians on Friday. But Mr. Lang, the most popular of the three in opinion polls, insisted the key issue was "who is the best-placed to mobilise opinion and eventually score a victory."

# Greenpeace slams Germany, Japan on nuclear stockpiles

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A leading environmentalist group sharply criticised Germany, and to a lesser extent Japan, for undermining international nuclear non-proliferation efforts by amassing stockpiles of fissionable materials.

A Greenpeace International report released Friday also attacked the "Japanese-German plutonium axis" for opposing U.S. President Bill Clinton's proposal for a worldwide ban on stockpiles of plutonium and highly enriched uranium.

"In the last year, the German government has expressed its fears over the proliferation of grams of plutonium," smuggled from the former Soviet Union, said the report. "A far greater threat lies in its own plutonium programme."

Titled "Germany, plutonium and proliferation: The unspoken threat," the report said the country has built up a stockpile of at least 2.5 tonnes of plutonium, "the central status symbol of German nuclear diplomacy."

It said much of the material is derived from a reprocessing plant in Karlsruhe and is stored in a secret "state bunker" just outside Frankfurt at Hanau, Japan maintains a similar but smaller facility, the report said.

The Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, which entered force in 1970 and comes up for extension in May, "draws a clear line of distinction between the nuclear haves and have-nots," the report's author, Matthias Kuntzel, told journalists Friday at Washington's National Press Club.

"Today, however, we are faced with a new third category, namely Germany and Japan."

Mr. Kuntzel said both nations are "virtual" or "latent" nuclear powers because of an ability to assemble weapons of mass destruction quickly. And in the Greenpeace report, he wrote:

"What today is a civilian plutonium stockpile can become a nuclear weapons arsenal tomorrow."

The report said "mountains" of surplus plutonium have become available from the reduction in arsenals of the former Soviet Union and the United States.

Despite that, it said, "the

German government remains committed to the separation of more plutonium" ostensibly for use in nuclear power plants.

Mr. Kuntzel added: "There are indications there is not only reactor plutonium in the bunker, but also highly enriched, weapons-grade plutonium."

The report warned that growing stockpiles subvert international confidence in the future of the non-proliferation treaty and strengthen advocates of nuclear arms programmes in Third World countries like Pakistan, India and North Korea.

"Germany, like Japan and other countries, retain their plutonium stockpiles as political bargaining chips," the report said. "As such they are an unacceptable example of nuclear proliferation."

It urged Germany to renounce immediately all separation of plutonium and production and use of highly enriched uranium. The document also demanded that Bonn liquidate its stockpile at Hanau, which it described as one of the largest in the world.

# Sierra Leone rebels kidnap two Britons

**FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP)** — Rebels kidnapped two Britons and a local worker in an attack on a U.S.-owned mine Friday and threatened to kill at least five European officials, officials said.

Fierce fighting was continuing around the two mines, a defence ministry spokesman said. He said they were "bombed" the area but that could not be confirmed.

The U.S. company, Nord Resources of Dayton, Ohio, said it was evacuating mine from the site.

The rebels said they would start killing hostages unless foreign nations, particularly Britain, stop arming the military government they've been fighting for three years, a Western diplomat said on condition of anonymity.

The rebellion against the government of Capt. Valentine Strasser, who seized power in 1992, has forced about 1.5 million people from their homes. There are no estimates of deaths because much of the fighting is in remote areas. Fighting has intensified in recent months and spread closer to the capital Freetown.

Britain's foreign office confirmed that Peter White and Andrew Young were taken hostage Friday in fighting at Sierra Rutile, a titanium dioxide mine 80 miles (130 kms) southeast of Freetown co-owned by Nord and by Consolidated Rutile Ltd. of Australia. It is the world's second biggest producer of rutile, used for paint pigment.

Nord Resources said one Sierra Leone and two British nationals were kidnapped. It said the mine was defended by local troops. It said Sierra Rutile employs about 2,000 people including 20 expatriates, most of whom are British, and 130 other contract personnel, mostly Malaysian.

Rutile spokesman Philip Palmer said 300 employees — including 30 to 40 Westerners — and 100 Malaysians were evacuated by barge from an Atlantic Ocean dock not far from the mine. Palmer was unsure of the Westerners' nationalities.

Sierra Leone rebels kidnap two Britons

# Talks to bring peace to Liberia break down, again

**MONROVIA, Liberia (AP)** — Efforts to end a 5-year-old tribal war that has killed more than 150,000 people were stymied late Friday after rebels failed to agree on a nominee to a council that would oversee the transition to peace.

Rebel leader Roosevelt Johnson walked out of talks to set up the transitional council, saying that the ruling state council that is mediating the selection of nominees "is not a neutral party."

A member of the ruling state council, Dexter Taylor, also questioned the panel's impartiality and withdrew from the talks on Friday.

The controversy surrounded the proposed membership of the leader of the Armed Forces of Liberia faction, Lt. Gen. Hezekiah Bowen.

Chief rebel leader Charles Taylor backs Mr. Bowen's bid to be on the council, which would govern the country during the disarmament and elections. Three other rebel groups want another representative.

"I will never compromise," Mr. Bowen said Friday of his proposed seat.

Four other council members were chosen in Accra, Ghana last week in talks that also failed over Mr. Bowen's candidacy.

Mr. Taylor claimed Nigeria, which plays the leading role in an African intervention force in Liberia, wants candidates it could control on the council. Nigerian officials deny the charge.

Mr. Johnson called for new talks to be mediated by traditional chiefs and Christian and Muslim leaders.

What began in December 1989 as a popular rebellion to

oust a tribalist dictatorship ballooned into full scale tribal war involving eight factions in this nation of 3.2 million people. Numerous peace accords have failed.

Angry Liberians rioted in the capital Monrovia last week when the talks failed in Ghana. Witnesses said at least six people were killed, five shot by African peacekeepers. However, the Nigerian leader of the intervention force, Maj. Gen. John Ilereng, said no one was killed.

The United Nations estimated the war had killed 150,000 people, mainly civilians, by 1991. No one has estimated the death toll since then. Two out of three Liberians are refugees in neighboring states or displaced inside the country, which was founded by freed American slaves in 1847.

# Charles' valet denies snitching to tabloid

**LONDON (AP)** — Prince Charles' valet has admitted meeting a newspaper reporter but denies saying that the prince committed adultery in the bushes outside his mansion, an attorney said Friday.

Ken Stronach, who was suspended from duty after he was identified as the source of sensational tales in the news of the world tabloid, admitted that he had taken pictures of Prince Charles' home that were published last weekend in the Sunday tabloid and in Monday's editions of its stablemate the Sun.

Mr. Stronach denied receiving any money for his photos, according to a statement from Henry Boyd-Carpenter of the law firm Farrer and Co.

The statement did not say whether Mr. Stronach would keep his job, but the prince's lawyers said they had obtained a court order forbidding Mr. Stronach and his son from saying anything about the controversy.

"Disciplinary procedures will follow shortly. No breach of security has been revealed, and no police investigation will be necessary," Mr. Boyd-Carpenter said.

The lawyer said Mr. Stronach "did not recognise the statements attributed to him" in the news of the world, and had specifically denied saying that Prince Charles made love to his old friend Camilla Parker Bowles outside his Gloucestershire mansion.

Mr. Stronach, 50, has worked as Charles' valet for 15 years, and is paid £12,000 (about \$19,000) a year plus the use of a south London home and a car.

Royal employees sign contracts in which they promise to keep their work confidential.

But Piers Morgan, editor of the News of the World, said Mr. Stronach approached his paper and met with its "Royal editor," Clive Goodman, at a hotel near Heathrow Airport on Nov. 22.

Charles' valet denies snitching to tabloid

# Christopher unveils proposal to combat terrorism, narcotics

**WASHINGTON (Agencies)** — Secretary of State Warren Christopher unveiled a broad plan Friday to deter terrorists and narcotics smugglers from operating in the United States. New legislation authorising wiretaps may be among the tools.

Suspected criminals will find it harder to get visas or to remain in the United States if they evade entry rules with illegal passports.

Foreigners suspected of crimes could be barred even without convictions in court, said a senior State Department official elaborating on Mr. Christopher's Harvard University speech.

The U.S. supreme court has imposed severe restrictions on wiretapping. Since 1967 the government has had to convince a federal judge of probable cause to believe taps will uncover a crime. Courts also have protected "aliens living in the United States with many of the rights of U.S. citizens."

But Mr. Christopher, a lawyer who held a high U.S.

Justice Department post 30 years ago, stressed a need for new legal measures to combat threats by international terrorists and drug traffickers.

"They ruin countless lives, destroy property and siphon away productive resources," he said. "They sap the strength of the industrialised countries of the world and, even more gravely, threaten the survival of emerging democracies."

U.S. embassies already can deny visas to unconvicted narcotics suspects. The power will be broadened to exclude anybody believed to have committed "serious criminal conduct," said the senior department official, who briefed reporters under rules shielding his identity.

Legislation is not ready for presentation to Congress that would legalise wiretaps in alien smuggling schemes or in other instances of suspected crimes, the official said.

"You'll have to wait and see how we develop this," he said. "There are ways consis-

tent with the laws of the land."

Mr. Christopher said in his speech that "international terrorists, criminals and drug traffickers pose direct threats to our people and to our nation's interests."

A strategy to combat them is being developed with the justice and treasury departments and other law-enforcement agencies, he said. The steps will include:

- Insisting that other governments extradite international fugitives or prosecute them and impose stiff sentences.
- Working with other governments on money laundering and seizing assets "to attack international criminals in a vulnerable place — their pocketbooks."
- Tougher standards for obtaining U.S. visas.
- New legislation to combat alien smuggling and immigration fraud.
- Expanding use of existing laws against terrorists and against their sources of funds in the United States.

The speech was designed to complement the State of Union Address President Bill Clinton delivers to Congress next Tuesday with a broader outline of U.S. foreign policy objectives in the second half of the administration's tenure.

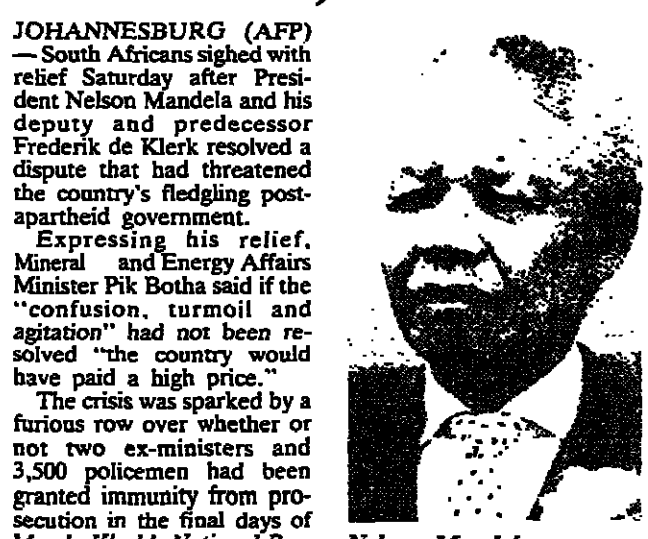
He said the U.S. intends to maintain 100,000 troops in Europe as well as its forward based troops in the Asia-Pacific area, including the 37,000 in South Korea.

While the focus of the Clinton administration's increase in defence spending will be to improve readiness, Mr. Christopher said, "I want to emphasise that there is no intention to change our commitments abroad."

In response to questions following the address, he said the U.S. does not have any quarrels with the religion of Islam, but he emphasised that "radicalism and extremism that prevents the operation of government and is involved in terrorism and killing" need to be resisted.

Term limits for members of Congress to be decided

# S. Africans sigh with relief as Mandela, de Klerk make up



Nelson Mandela

**JOHANNESBURG (AFP)** — South Africans sighed with relief Saturday after President Nelson Mandela and his deputy and predecessor Frederik de Klerk resolved a dispute that had threatened the country's fledgling post-apartheid government.

Expressing his relief, Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister P. K. Botha said if the "confusion, turmoil and agitation" had not been resolved "the country would have paid a high price."

The crisis was sparked by a furious row over whether or not two ex-ministers and 3,500 policemen had been granted immunity from prosecution in the final days of Mr. de Klerk's National Party (NP) government.

Rumours quickly spread that Mr. de Klerk had threatened to quit the nine-month-old government of national unity (GNU), sending shivers through the stock market, with the all-share index shedding 1.6 per cent during Thursday's trade.

The rumour was quickly squashed, but the Star newspaper said Saturday that the tremors in the financial market "crisply displayed the indispensability of the GNU."

"For right or wrong, the money world believes that its interests are served by the former regime staying in partnership with the new," the Star said, "and for right or wrong, what the money world believes is crucial to

on the specific issue of indemnity from prosecution to security forces members: 'Mr. de Klerk insists it was granted by his government before the April 1994 election — Mr. Mandela says it was not and that only applications for the measure have been filed.'

"We can only thank God that the two leaders have settled their personal differences," the Citizen newspaper said in an editorial, "the NP remains in the GNU and the immediate crisis has been resolved."

The Star said the GNU was "non-negotiable, no matter how much irritation it inflicts upon the bedfellows."

"Like spouses who take their marriage vows seriously, they had better resign themselves to the partnership they promised," it said.

But Mr. de Klerk had another dig at the ANC Saturday, when he accused the organisation of being "out of step."

"They are still working with the Communist Party," he said at the close of the NP's three-day congress here. "They are out of step regarding minority rights... the ANC's policy is majority domination."

"More and more people who voted for the ANC are becoming disillusioned with them, we must talk to them and try and persuade them to be with us," he said. "We want to be the winning party."

Break-in brings more prison trouble for Brit

Bigamist's wife must share pension, court says

Ivan the Gorilla pick soulmate

Vandals steal battle-axe from Louvre



## Jordan Times

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## Road to recovery

THE VISIT of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak yesterday, his talks with His Majesty King Hussein and the statements made by the two leaders signal a significant and positive turn on the road to improved relations among Arab countries following the divide created by the Gulf war. Just prior to that war Jordan helped Egypt back into the Arab fold following years of isolation in the aftermath of the Camp David peace treaty with Israel. In the late 1980s Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and Yemen established the Arab Cooperation Council to complement the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union. Those were the days when great hopes were pinned on Arab groups to get together and cooperate towards establishing a stronger Arab Nation.

However, Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and the ensuing war shattered the Arab Order and led to a schism in the Arab body. Since then many facts have changed on the ground. Iraq was weakened as a result of the war and the sanctions that followed. The Gulf states felt vulnerable, increasingly turning their back on the rest of the nation and towards the West for protection. Meanwhile most Middle East countries, including Syria, took the strategic decision to pursue peace with Israel after decades of war.

When the four Arab parties — Jordan, the Palestinians, Syria and Lebanon — went to Madrid they did so with a divided and weakened nation behind them and only a minimum level of coordination among themselves. Sooner than later, the Oslo accords between the Palestinians and the Israelis ended even that level of coordination. And with a stumbling peace process between the Palestinians and the Israelis, the latter started putting pressure on Syria to speed up bilateral negotiations and on Egypt to warm up relations.

This might have been one important reason why the Syrians, the Egyptians and the Saudis, who led the Arab coalition against Iraq, moved to reconsider Arab-Arab relations.

The new understanding now, as alluded to by Mr. Mubarak yesterday, is to reach a broad reconciliation among most Arab countries, which would strengthen positions in negotiations with Israel in particular and the West in general in the quest for reshaping the Middle East.

Should this indeed be the goal, the Arab World would no doubt need the good offices of His Majesty and Jordan's influence in both the Arab sphere and the world at large. Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia know that they can always bet on Jordan being the first to move in this direction because Jordanians have always believed that Arab unity is the only guarantee for Arab interests. Yet a lot of time has been lost so far and the Arabs cannot and need not waste more opportunities before they take their matters into their own hands.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE MEETING in Aqaba Saturday between His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak crowns the Jordanian diplomacy's efforts towards achieving the minimum level of solidarity among Arabs, said Al Ra'i daily in an editorial Saturday. Solidarity among Arabs has become a requirement under the present circumstances and in the light of developments in the peace process with Israel and in view of developments at the international scene, said the paper. The Aqaba summit confirms a fact that Egypt and Jordan hold the key towards bolstering ties among Arab countries in the North African continent and the Mashreq; and the meeting of their heads of state at this juncture is bound to pave the way for a wider base of coordination among Arab states, the paper continued. We hope that the two leaders would take steps towards bringing back Iraq into the Arab fold because without Iraq and without removing the traces of the consequences of the Gulf crisis, solidarity remains without meaning, added the paper.

A WRITER in Al Dostour related his experience in reviewing Palestinian newspapers in Gaza by saying he found them full of congratulations for the new members of the Jordanian government particularly Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti who has close relatives in Gaza. Saleh Al Qallab said that the Palestinian papers carried obituaries of the late Sheikh Nayef Al Khreisba who passed away in Jordan but who has close relatives in Toulkarm in the West Bank and other areas of the occupied Arab lands. Furthermore, he said, an official delegation from the Jordanian parliament was due in Nabulus on Jan. 30.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

## Judge government in 100 days

IT IS customary in democratic countries, where governments change from time to time, and where authority changes hands, that a new government is given a grace period or a honeymoon of 100 days during which harsh criticism is held back and no campaigns are waged against it. The purpose is to give the new team sufficient time to think, plan and act. Indicators of success or failure are to be seen only after such period. It is not perceived as fair to prejudice any government during the first days of its tenure.

This implied grace period is known to every government, which can use it in one of two ways. The first is to enjoy a period of tranquillity and rest, without pressures from Parliament, attacks from the media or negative comments in social gatherings. In this case, the government would use this period to prepare action.

The second is to implement controversial and unpopular measures and plans. In this case, the grace period is used to enable the government to be bold and aggressive while its back is safe and the opposition is not yet sufficiently organised and ready to assail the government and block its ability to move and act.

It is obviously very tempting to any new government to take the easy way, enjoy peace, organise its own house and think of what should be done. However, the government will be well-advised to use its honeymoon to implement or initiate implementation of all, or most, of what should be done. The new government does not need time to get acquainted with the current issues and to study the available options. The prime minister and his team are not outsiders. They were not far from the political, economic

and social spheres of the country. They are supposed to know what are the major issues at hand and must have thought and planned ahead of time. The new government is not going to approach its duties and responsibilities without a pre-determined agenda.

If the honeymoon expires without substantial accomplishments, we shall conclude that the government is actually without an agenda or a clear programme, and that its job is to run the day-to-day routine matters, process paperwork and react to developments if and when they arise.

If, on the other hand, the government has a mission to perform, and is armed with clear vision, a comprehensive programme and objectives that go beyond the generalities which are acceptable and good for all governments at all times, it has to begin implementation of its programmes promptly in order to gain the image of a dynamic government which can govern, can make decisions, does not yield to pressures and will not appease special interest groups and those with loud voices just to avoid headache and busy time.

Of course, we do understand some cautious waiting before the vote of confidence is secured from Parliament. The government should not give its opponents ammunition which they can use in the battle for confidence. Therefore, a vote of confidence should be obtained as early as possible, based on a flexible and general programme which allows the freedom of action later on. After that, we expect an immediate take-off and a season of action without hesitation.

## 1995 brings largest, most diverse agenda ever for arms control

By John D. Holm

WITH THE downfall of the Soviet Union, many expected the need for arms control to disappear too. But in fact, the opposite has taken place: Arms control is more central than ever. Far from a cold war relic, it is a prime element of our national security strategy.

While the bipolar nuclear standoff is largely over, we still must extract many of its sharp teeth. Only one of the START treaties is legally in force. Despite voluntary reductions, many thousands of weapons remain, and the START verification regime is only beginning to operate.

Furthermore, the Soviet-American arms competition has been replaced, as President Clinton has noted, by a world of "rampant arms proliferation, bitter regional conflicts, ethnic and nationalist tensions... and fanatics who seek to cripple the world's cities with terror." Consider the following:

— By reputable estimates, more than 40 countries now have the technical ability to develop nuclear weapons, if they so choose. One of Iraq's techniques for enriching uranium was a process the United States had abandoned more than 40 years ago and declassified.

— Missiles — with much longer ranges, greater payloads, and higher accuracy than Iraq's Scuds — are more accessible. North Korea is working on the Taepo Dong, with a range of several thousand kilometres, and sees missile exports as a source of hard currency earnings — as, apparently, does China.

— We believe that more than two dozen countries — many hostile to us — have chemical weapons programmes.

— The leading proliferators of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons tend to be found in some of the most unstable regions — the Korean Peninsula, South Asia, the Middle East.

Some suggest addressing all these threats by military build-ups alone. But if the cold war taught us anything, it is the necessity of both military might and arms control. Arms control is threat control. Every weapon we can keep or take out of the hands of our potential adversaries is a weapon we do not have to spend much more, with less certain effect, to defend against.

So whatever one's ideology, abandoning arms control would be mistaken — and particularly senseless in 1995, as the United States addresses arms control missions that will fundamentally shape the nation's security for years to come. For this year we address the largest and most diverse arms control agenda in history.

Here are some key aspects of that agenda:

This spring, the fate of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) will be determined in the 25th-year review and extension conference. The NPT has never been more important than it is now, with access to technology wax-

ing, cold war disciplines waning, and rogue states hungering for nuclear arms. The NPT politically and legally enables all of our nuclear nonproliferation efforts, from North Korea to South Asia to Ukraine.

The NPT should be made permanent. Any other outcome would leave doubts about its dependability over the long term, and thus diminish its effect even in the short term.

But we are engaged in a real struggle. A number of countries are attracted to the self-defeating idea that the NPT should be held hostage, to be ransomed by a comprehensive test ban, further strategic disarmament, or something else. Others, like Iran, think it should be amended to make access to nuclear technology an automatic right of parties — as if we had no memory of what happened in Iraq... and, indeed, no clue about Iran itself.

One thing is certain: 1995 is our one best chance to safeguard the NPT for all time.

1995 is also a decisive year for strategic arms control — particularly with implementation of START, and the mandate for early ratification of START II.

Rose Garden ceremonies are nice, but the promise of arms control isn't fulfilled until agreed reductions are verifiably made. And when these particular obligations are fulfilled, we will shut the "window of vulnerability" many saw as the consequence of the heavy Soviet MIRVed ICBMs that are on their way to extinction — along with two thirds of all deliverable strategic warheads — when both START treaties are implemented.

Ratification of START II is a top administration priority. And once that is done, Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin have agreed to deactivate all strategic nuclear delivery systems to be reduced under the treaty — and instructed their experts to intensify their dialogue on the possibility of further limits on nuclear forces.

Also in 1995, the United States has the opportunity to lead in bringing the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) into force.

The United States is pushing resolutely for full Russian compliance with our bilateral agreements on chemical weapons, including the 1989 Wyoming Memorandum of Understanding, designed to build confidence through chemical weapons declarations and trial on-site inspections.

Compled with those efforts, the best way to resolve our concerns is to bring the CWC into force — a point recently made by Russian "whistleblowers" to a visiting Senate staff delegation. Then Russia will have the choice of either complying with a legally binding, global regime — with sanctions — or else isolating itself from a world-wide consensus.

Meanwhile, the CWC will give us a way to deal with at least 25 other countries of concern, which without the treaty can legally stockpile chemical weapons. And it will give us far more information than we have now about hidden chemical weapons programmes — even in countries that do not join.

1995 will be a fateful year for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)

The test ban's time is here at last — to ensure that there will not be another qualitative arms race, and also to restrain proliferation, by denying aspiring proliferators the ability to refine and miniaturise their weapons, making them easier to deliver.

At a time when the nuclear arms race is over, when we have already conducted a publicly reported 1,054 tests (to Russia's reported 715 and China's reported 41); when both we and the Russians are eliminating nuclear weapons by the thousands and not developing any new ones, when we can maintain a safe and reliable stockpile without tests — it simply makes no sense to keep setting off nuclear explosions to further sift the finest particles of knowledge about how nuclear weapons work, when the main effect of doing so would be to give cover to nations who could actually use the knowledge they would gain.

Our administration is firmly committed to success in the test ban negotiations. The president has extended the nuclear moratorium twice; more than three dozen states have been engaged in the multilateral negotiation in Geneva; and the participants have produced a rolling treaty text.

Although we reject any linkage, it is also the case that irreversible progress on the CTBT will help us achieve a definite extension of the NPT. So the test ban must be a leading negotiating priority for 1995.

The same is true of the fissile material cutoff. We expect the Conference on Disarmament will have a negotiating mandate on this cutoff early in 1995. It is our best hope of putting a cap on the potential nuclear programmes of the so-called nuclear threshold states — India, Pakistan and Israel — that are outside the NPT.

In 1995, the United States must also sustain and intensify its efforts to address nuclear smuggling — to enhance fissile material security, accounting, and controls worldwide — and specifically, to foster transparency and irreversibility in the nuclear disarmament of the former Soviet Union.

In 1995 we need to resolve the question of Anti-Ballistic Missile/Threat Middle Defence (ABM/TMD) Demarcation, the dividing line between prohibited strategic defences and permitted theatre defences. I know that those negotiations are controversial in some quarters. But in my view, we must protect the enormous benefits of the treaty for strategic stability. At the same time, it is urgent to prepare defences against both the existing threats facing us in the theatre context and also against the more capable theatre ballistic missiles that rogue states and potential adversaries could foreseeably acquire.

I am convinced that we can negotiate an agreement that protects the TMD technologies that need to be explored for effective theatre ballistic missile defence — including the Theatre High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD), system, which is ready to begin flight testing in February.

And to those supporters of the ABM Treaty who oppose our demonstration efforts, I say that it will not be protected by being fossilised. A treaty abandoned — however pristine — is without value.

So this is the year for us to safeguard both capable theatre defences and the strategic benefits of the ABM Treaty.

1995 is also the final year of reductions under the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (CWC). The United States will need to hold firm to protect the treaty against efforts to dilute it in the name of "humanitarianism," to weaken it by watering down its fleet limits, or to reduce compliance with mandated reductions.

1995 is also the year we expect entry into force of Open Skies treaty, opening the way for overflights of nations' territories from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

And in 1995 we will negotiate vigorously for a system aimed at improving compliance

with the enforcement of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC).

In 1995 we must ratify the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW), to advance the president's landmark initiative at this year's CCW review conference.

1995 will be the critical first year of implementation of the Framework Agreement to freeze and roll back North Korea's nuclear programme. This agreement — based on trust, but on verified reciprocal steps by each side — is strongly in the U.S. interest.

Several of these efforts illustrate a major cross-cutting challenge for the United States in 1995: inaugurating the arms control implementation era. With new treaties like START, START II, the CWC, and Open Skies — plus others now in process such as the CTBT and the Fissile Cutoff — joining older agreements such as the NPT, ABM, CFE and others already in force, the United States faces a burgeoning mission in realising the benefits of arms control. I am sensitive to this because

ACDA is the nation's agent for these efforts — combining expertise in negotiations, law, intelligence analysis, and technology to make sure that our treaty rights are respected.

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## U.S. and Russia work at a troubled relationship

By Carol Giacomo Reuter

GENEVA — Two days of U.S.-Russian meetings this week produced plenty of talk and little apparent concrete action.

U.S. officials say Moscow has no clear plan for halting the conflict in Chechnya but U.S. warnings of unfavourable consequences if fighting continues in the breakaway region have begun to ring hollow.

This shows the difficulty Washington is experiencing in working out a response to an internal dispute that has ramifications far beyond Russia's borders.

It is weakening a vitally important country and undermining its leader, Boris Yeltsin, who is still regarded by Washington as the best hope for reform.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher came to Geneva to deliver a stern message to Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev on the folly of Moscow's five-week military operation in Chechnya, in which thousands of civilians have been killed.

Publicly and privately, he said the operation was risking Russian legitimacy at home and abroad, jeopardising progress on democratic and economic reform and damaging ties with the United States and Europe.

"I can't predict exactly what these consequences are... but they are bound to be unfavourable," Mr. Christopher told reporters at start of the talks.

This threat virtually evaporated by the end of their talks on Wednesday. Mr. Kozyrev gave several rhetorical assurances to Mr. Christopher but little in the way of concrete commitments.

The Americans made much of Russia's offer to end the Chechnya war by negotiating a ceasefire and holding elections, perhaps allowing international observers to monitor the polls.

Senior U.S. officials said they have serious doubts whether Mr. Kozyrev or anyone else had a formula for stopping the fighting.

They added that no date for Chechen elections was mentioned and Mr. Kozyrev made no promise on the election observers, only to "consider" allowing them in.

Similarly, while Mr. Kozyrev and Mr. Christopher launched a year-long dialogue on NATO's ties with Russia and broader

European security issues, Mr. Kozyrev did not commit himself to signing up to the alliance's Partnership for Peace programme.

Washington and its allies were angered when he balked at doing so publicly at a NATO meeting last month.

Russia continued to press a resistant United States to lift sanctions imposed on Iraq after the 1991 Gulf war and the two countries remained at odds over Russian arms sales and Moscow's possible provision of nuclear reactors to Iran.

At a joint news conference, Mr. Christopher asserted the administration's determination to continue aid to Russia, even though Moscow's assault on Chechnya continued unabated.

Later, U.S. officials said President Bill Clinton would propose "substantial" new aid to Russia and other former Soviet republics in his 1996 budget.

Washington also reaffirmed strong support for negotiations that began on Wednesday on a new International Monetary Fund loan to Russia worth more than \$9 billion.

U.S. officials reiterated Mr. Christopher's warning that the new Republican-controlled U.S. Congress might oppose such largesse if Russia failed to bring the conflict in Chechnya to an acceptable conclusion.

They also made it clear that the administration, which often sets the tone, does not condone an aid cutoff.

"We think that support for reformers is still a foundation of our policy towards Russia and its in our national interest," one senior official said.

There was encouraging rhetoric, such as Mr. Kozyrev's vow that Mr. Yeltsin's December warning about a "cold peace" replacing cold war divisions would not be allowed to happen and his assurance that Russia's commitment to democracy and free markets was "unwavering."

One analyst described Washington's approach as "benefit of the doubt diplomacy" and even senior U.S. officials acknowledged uncertainty about what might happen next.

At the height of the cold war, Washington and Moscow worked to keep their relationship on an even keel through contacts and senior U.S. officials say they can do no less now, when Russia is at a difficult stage.

## LETTERS

### Unilateral action damages peace

To the Editor:

U.S. HOUSE of Representatives speaker Newt Gingrich was quoted as favouring moving the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. As a Palestinian-American, I find in Mr. Gingrich's comments a continued sense of Israeli superiority.

The Holy City of Jerusalem is key to Palestinian-Israeli peace. Jerusalem is home to Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Between 1947-48, the United States voted in favour of U.N. Resolution 181 and 194, which both call for the "internationalisation" of the City of Jerusalem. Every United States administration since the creation of Israel has supported repeated United Nations resolutions calling for no unilateral decisions regarding Jerusalem.

President Truman's administration was the one that recognised the controversial establishment of the State of Israel. In a statement made only months after the creation of Israel, President Truman stated, "We continue to support, within the framework of the United Nations, the internationalisation of Jerusalem and the protection of the holy places in Palestine..." (Pres. Truman, statement on Israel, Oct. 24, 1948).

Two years following the 1967 Six Day War, which resulted in the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, President Nixon's administration took the following position. "... The question of the future status of Jerusalem, because it touches deep emotional, historical and religious wellsprings, is particularly complicated. We have made clear repeatedly in the past two and a half years that we cannot accept unilateral actions by any party to decide the final status of the city..." (Secretary of State Rogers, address to the 1969 Galaxy Conf., Dec. 9, 1969).

President Bush's administration, which was the motivating factor for the Oslo peace accords, repeated the same opinion. "... It has been the longstanding position of the United States that the status of Jerusalem must be resolved by negotiations..." (Department of State, July 12, 1989).

Republican and Democratic administrations alike have been consistent on Jerusalem because they all understood the explosive nature of a unilateral decision.

Mr. Gingrich should recognise that if the U.S. is to be a genuine mediator, it must come to the conviction that Palestinian statehood in place of Israeli occupation is the only viable and just solution. This means that Jerusalem, the proclaimed capital of Palestine and Israel, be negotiated on the basis of human rights and international law and not as an issue that is predetermined by Israel with the tacit acquiescence of the U.S.

Sam Bahour,  
Co-editor of Homeland: Oral Histories of Palestine and Palestinians,  
Youngstown, Ohio.



## Turkey continues search for U.S. officer and son

ANKARA (Agencies) — Joint U.S.-Turkish mountain patrols searched for a seventh day on Saturday for a missing U.S. Air Force officer and his 10-year-old son, apparently lost during a boy scout ski outing on Jan. 15.

A spokesman for the effort said the day's hunt, backed by helicopters and infra-red cameras, began early in the morning. He said no clues had been recovered.

U.S. authorities have vowed to search into next week for Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Mike Couillard, 37, and his son Matthew.

But they acknowledged searchers are more likely to recover the bodies of the Americans than to find them alive.

"It is unlikely that anyone could survive in the snow that long — especially if they are hurt," said embassy spokeswoman Margaret Schmidt. Officials believe Col. Couillard, who has had survival training, must have been injured. Otherwise, they say, he would have found his way out of the Kartalkaya ski resort, near Ankara, or managed to signal

to rescue teams.

They have also written off claims by the self-styled "Lebanon Freedom Fighters" — made in telephone calls — that they are holding the pair and demanding release of a pro-Iranian guerrilla from an Israeli jail.

On Friday, Istanbul anti-terror police said they had detained a man for allegedly placing the hoax calls. However, Anatolian news agency later reported another call, saying the group was extending a deadline for the release of the guerrilla by 24 hours.

The latest caller, like the others, offered no evidence the pair was being held. The Pentagon has said it presumed the colonel and his son were lost in the snow.

Anatolia first reported Wednesday that the group claimed to have kidnapped the two and was demanding the release of Hadi Ali Dirani, who they described as a leader of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah in Lebanon.

A former Lebanese fundamentalist chief voiced support for the previously unknown group, press reports said Saturday.

## King, Mubarak hold summit

(Continued from page 1)

But a "successful" visit of Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti to Cairo earlier this month seems to have opened the way for reconciliation between the two Arab countries which have concluded peace treaties with Israel.

Mr. Mubarak's visit to the Kingdom came upon an invitation from King Hussein that Mr. Kabariti delivered during his visit to Egypt.

Mr. Sharif said the agenda of the summit also included the peace process in all its aspects, and means of re-activating the mechanism for bi-

lateral cooperation in the political, economic and social fields.

The visit, he said, aimed at restoring to "suitable levels the ties between the two brotherly states."

Mr. Mubarak was received upon arrival and seen off upon departure from Aqaba airport by King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasbi, Mr. Kabariti, Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Abul Ragheb and other officials.

## Battles move outside Grozny

(Continued from page 1)

agency, said Moscow troops had in the last 24 hours continued combat action in the centre of Grozny.

Russia's spy chief said in an interview Saturday Russian forces are trying to capture Mr. Dudayev, still holed up in Grozny, and demanding unconditional surrender from separatist soldiers.

Sergei Stepanashin also admitted, in comments in the official army newspaper *Russkaya Zvezda*, that Russian forces had made a tactical error in not closing off the southern route out of Grozny sooner, allowing the rebels to be resupplied.

The head of Russia's federal counterintelligence service (FSK), formed to replace the Soviet KGB, said Mr. Dudayev was still sheltering in his well-prepared bunker

system in Grozny.

"He can hide for a fairly long time, but despite that we have the task of arresting him."

Mr. Stepanashin said there were no chances of negotiations ending the war.

The Chechens' only option is total surrender, he said. "I am categorically against negotiations with people representing the Dudayev regime," the FSK chief said.

But after an "unconditional laying down of arms and an end to hostilities I am ready for talks with anyone, even Dudayev," he added.

The FSK made a mistake in dissolving a special forces group called Vypel after the dissolution of the KGB, Mr. Stepanashin said. It also should have closed the southern route from Grozny earlier, he added.

## Rescue efforts in high gear

(Continued from page 1)

criticism for the slow pace of desperately needed aid, admitted to parliament his coalition government's response to the quake had been "confused."

"It is imperative that we think and restructure our disaster-relief policies," Mr. Miyazawa said.

The Japanese appeared to have recovered from the shock of the quake and have rallied to the challenge of rebuilding what had been one of the country's most cosmopolitan industrial centres.

Mr. Watanabe said electricity had been restored to much of the city, although more than 850,000 households in Kobe and the surrounding Kyogo prefecture are still without water and natural gas.

Many small shops reopened, although most large supermarkets, banks and department stores remained closed four days after the quake. About 100 schools reopened for half-day sessions, radio reports said.

Events in Kobe, however, have prompted the Japanese to reconsider some of their long-cherished assumptions about the country's ability to use its technological powers as a defense against nature.

Another quake — with a magnitude of 6.2 — shook Japan's northern island Hokkaido on Saturday but there were no reports of casualties or damage.

On Saturday, Makiko Tanaka, director general of the science and technology agency, visited the Hamaoka nuclear power plant in central Japan to ensure safety of such facilities in light of events in Kobe.

Ms. Tanaka told reporters she was assured that the plant could withstand even stronger quakes than the one that devastated Kobe. But she urged a review of all Japanese nuclear plants because "anything beyond imagination can happen."

Help, meanwhile, was arriving. A 60-member French interior ministry's specialist rescue team flew in with sniffer dogs and immediately started work in Nishinomiya, a badly hit eastern suburb of Kobe. A Swiss team of dog handlers found one survivor on Friday.

In central Kobe, a semblance of routine was returning slowly. City construction workers drove in the first wooden piles for about 2,000 emergency pre-fabricated homes for some of the evacuees now in cramped, makeshift shelters.

On Saturday, newspapers published simulations of what would happen in Tokyo if a quake similar to the Kobe temblor hit the capital.

If such a quake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale struck at six o'clock in the evening, it would kill and injure an estimated 860,000 people, while a pre-dawn quake like the one in Kobe would claim 68,000 victims.

On Friday, the Japan Times, an English-language newspaper widely read by foreigners, inflamed the fears of an expatriate population already alarmed.

"The number of quakes strong enough to be felt by people has increased sharply in the Tokyo area since December," the newspaper said.



A Chechen fighter runs in the streets of battle-scarred Grozny

## Rage and incredulity in city of hell

Amid the chaos of a capital where Chechen leaders say 18,000 have died in a three-week Russian bombardment, rebel soldiers are threatening a guerrilla campaign from the mountains beyond. Ian MacWilliam reports from Grozny

THE HEART of the Chechen capital of Grozny, now entering its third week of brutal Russian bombardment, is a scene from hell. The Russians seem determined to turn the city into rubble, and last week, as warplanes and heavy artillery pounded away, many more bodies were lying in the bloodstained slush.

The ferocious assault brought the Russians some gains, but even as they made advances they were harried by Chechens appearing in their rear from water-main tunnels, making a nonsense of the front line.

Every building along Lenin Avenue, which leads from the square, has been damaged by shellfire, the road surfaces broken and strewn with debris. Every window is shattered, every space covered with broken glass. Amid the wreckage lie the belongings of vanished civilians: a teddy bear face down in the mud; a shoe or glove; a muddy book called *Russia's Ancient Villages*.

Incredibly, people are still living here. As the whump and crack of shells a mile away repeatedly shake the city, a woman's head appears out of a window above and shouts: "Be careful, there are snipers

ahead." A bewildered old woman walks down the road with two buckets, oblivious to the firing.

Women carrying shopping bags of bread or buckets of water pick their way along the streets during quieter moments, or shelter in courtyards. They sleep in basements or in their flats, trying to ignore constant explosions nearby.

Many of those who remain are pensioners, often Russians, with no money to go elsewhere. Chechens can flee to their relatives in nearby villages, but Russians, their savings wiped out by inflation, cannot leave.

Further along the avenue, several minutes' walk from Freedom Square, stands the Russian Orthodox Church of St. Michael the Archangel, which has somehow escaped serious damage. Last week, as fighting raged in the square, Father Anatoly Chistov was still there to look after the church. "There are Russians here in the city," says Fr. Chistov. "How can I abandon them? We used to have services every day, but now only on feast days. People are afraid to come. They are shooting all the time."

The Russian people have always suffered so much at the hands of their governments that few of those in Grozny seem struck by the irony that their own government is wreaking such chaos, while professing to support their interests. Father Chistov, asked what he thought of the Russian government, said simply: "I don't know. We haven't worked that out."

Outside, on a block of flats, a huge Soviet-era mural of doves and a rising sun bears the mocking slogan: "Peace to the Caucasus! Peace to all!"

At the southern end of Lenin Avenue lies the Minutka intersection, where Chechen fighters have been gathering before going into the city centre. Though their fierce defence of the city held the Russians at bay for much of last week, superior Russian firepower began to take its toll on Thursday when shelling of Minutka and other southern parts of the city began.

The fighters have lost none of their determination, but their mood has turned sombre. "Look, this is Yeltsin's democracy," said one in camouflage fatigues, as explosions thudded in the city and echoed off the hills. "I'm fighting for

my freedom," said Aslanbek Thutayev commanding a unit of 25 fighters. "I want to be independent from Russia, and I'll fight for my people to the end."

The Chechens fight in groups of 15 to 25 men, in what appears to be a loosely organised structure. Apart from those fighters directly under the Chechen government, many others have simply taken up arms and joined the struggle against Russia.

As fighters, they are often surprisingly effective. Last week, I saw Chechens take control of two armoured personnel vehicles simply by driving up behind, shooting out the tyres and forcing the troops to surrender.

Though the Chechens accept that they face overwhelming odds, most will fight simply to defend their honour against Moscow, a power that has tried to suppress their free-spirited ways since the encroaching Tsarist empire reached the Caucasus mountain barrier centuries ago.

In 1994, Stalin rounded up the entire Chechen people, and their neighbours the Ingush, in a matter of days in mid-winter and deported them to Central Asia in cattle wagons,

accusing them of having assisted the German invaders. Thousands died of hunger and cold during the deportation. This remains the most powerful collective memory in the long history of Russia's suppression of the Chechens.

As Russian forces began shelling southern Grozny, civilians still trying to survive in the southern suburbs became noticeably more nervous. At a crowded market on the city's edge, frightened women keep asking when the war will stop, or why.

"West is doing nothing to help," demanded Valentina Sergeyeva, a woman of Polish descent. "We can't sleep at night. I studied at the technical institute, and now I have nothing. I stand here like a beggar asking for bread. What is Yeltsin thinking? What can we do? No one wants to die."

A young woman in the crowd with tired eyes added: "How could they destroy the city? Who will rebuild it?"

Rage and incomprehension are a common response to questions about President Boris Yeltsin. The Chechens add that one can expect little more from a drunkard.

Among the Russian forces attacking Grozny, morale has been notoriously low, and many officers are opposed to the whole Chechen operation, which has been badly organised from the start. Reinforcements have been arriving around Grozny this week, as paratroopers and marines have been sent in to strengthen young, inexperienced conscripts. Rus-

sian casualties have been high, officially almost 400.

As the area of Russian shelling extends, however, the likelihood increases of a partisan war in the mountains south of Grozny. Already Russian aircraft have bombed roads there.

About 50 Russian paratroopers, who parachuted into the hills at the beginning of the assault, surrendered to local Chechen militia after a brief fight a week ago. Their supplies had been dropped elsewhere, and they were starving and demoralised.

Casualty figures are unclear, but Chechen Minister of Information Molvadi Udugov said last Tuesday that about 200 Chechen fighters had died and some 300 to 400 had been wounded. He quoted a Chechen government report claiming that more than 18,000 civilians had been killed since the start of the fighting, more than 12,000 of them in Grozny. Some 400,000 refugees are estimated to have fled the fighting in Chechnya. The fighters will simply leave the city to establish bases in the hills.

At the town of Stari Atagi, 25-km south of Grozny, a new cemetery has been opened in a windswept field. Already it contains some 250 graves of those killed in Grozny or elsewhere since the Russian assault began in December. Last week, seven funerals were performed, with men chanting over the freshly packed mounds of earth.

"We know that Russia wants to unite itself, but this is no way to do it," said one young man. "We Chechens are only a million people," said another mourner. "First, they deported us, and now this. We want to live on our own land. That's all."

The Observer

## Newspapers clipping to offset rising cost of newsprint

By Andrew Fraser

AP

NEW YORK — Just as they are recovering from a slump in advertising, U.S. newspapers are facing a new obstacle: Double-digit increases in the price of newsprint, their basic raw material.

Newspaper publishers have long known that newsprint prices inevitably would rise. Still, many have been surprised by the speed and magnitude of newsprint inflation.

Some are shrinking the size of papers and the stories printed in them. Some are raising newsstand and subscription prices. Others are cutting costs, from the mailroom to the newsroom. Layoffs are on the rise.

"Now is the time newspapers are looking at people they can live without," said Kenneth T. Berents, director of investment research at Wheat Butcher and Singer in Richmond, Virginia, and an authority on newsprint costs. "They

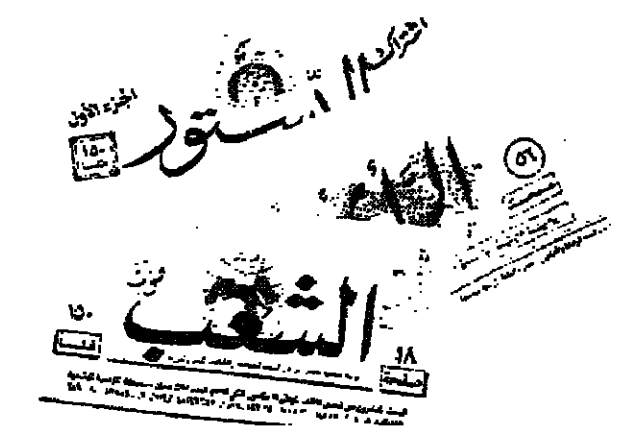
are cutting back on waste."

A robust economy has fuelled a growth in newspaper advertising, which had languished for many years. But the economy's vibrancy also has increased demand and prices for the supply of newsprint.

Newspaper ad revenue grew for a third straight year in 1994 by 7.5 per cent to \$34 billion, the fastest rise since 1985, and is expected to grow by 7 per cent this year, according to the Newspaper Association of America, an industry group based in Reston, Virginia.

The price of newsprint, which represents about 20 per cent of a newspaper's expenses, rose more than 33 per cent in 1994, recovering from the deep weakness of a few years earlier.

By some industry estimates the price will grow another 25 per cent to 30 per cent this year to near or above \$600 per tonne. That's about \$200 more than in 1992.



Jordanian newspapers, also pinched by increased prices, are currently pondering ways to offset the price rise

Two of the country's largest newspapers are cutting staff because of newsprint inflation. The Wall Street Journal is laying off close to 100 people, while the Miami Herald is eliminating 30 to 40 positions through attrition.

Blaming newsprint prices, the Wichita (Kansas) Eagle laid off 16 workers in November — the first in its 122-year history.

Both the Herald and Eagle are owned by Knight-Ridder Inc., one of the largest newspaper companies. Spokeswoman Lee Ann Schlatter said the company has given its papers a mandate to devise ways to offset newsprint price increases.

Knight-Ridder expects its newsprint expenses to rise by as much as \$100 million

this year. The company spent \$285 million on newsprint last year.

The newsprint increases are rooted partly in the cyclical nature of the paper business, which tracks the ups and downs of the broader economy.

Newsprint manufacturers slashed prices and closed mills during the recession in the early 1990s as demand dropped. That tightened supplies.

Aggravating the shortage were strikes last year that shut four paper mills in Canada.

But with the economy strengthening and advertising increasing, many newspaper publishers knew that it was only a matter of time before the price of newsprint began to rise. Some planned ahead to confront the problem.

Newspaper publishers are looking at aesthetic and cosmetic ways to save money, such as compressing classifieds and reconfiguring pages to reduce

white space, and cutting the quantity of papers they print.

But papers are trying to find a balance between making changes that would save money but not alienate their audience.

Some newspapers have tinkered with raising newsstand prices — a delicate move because it could drive away readers at a time when the industry is battling to maintain or increase circulation.

The New York Times raised daily newsstand prices in New York City in September from 50 cents to 60 cents. The Wall Street Journal recently raised its annual subscription 10 per cent to \$164.

The Journal's publisher, Peter R. Kann, told readers in a letter published Tuesday that the newspaper expects to spend \$100 million more this year for the 150,000 tonnes of newsprint it uses.

The Associated Press



# Little bangs seen for European single currency

BRUSSELS (R) — Europe's single currency should not come in one sweep, the European Commission was told Friday, but quickly in a few small "bangs."

Banks would switch overnight for accounting purposes when European Union (EU) countries were ready for the currency, a group of experts told the EU executive in what is likely to be an influential report.

But the EU's citizens would not find their pockets filled with unfamiliar money until maybe six months later. And for people to accept it, the report said, the European currency would have to be stronger than any current national one.

Public and private sector interests should immediately start discussions on the how new notes and currencies would be introduced, it said.

The report, titled "The preparation of the changeover to the single European currency," was prepared by bankers, academics and consumer representatives at the commission's request.

"The possibility of a 'big bang,' one-off or instantaneous introduction of all the elements that will go to make up a single European currency is most unlikely," the group said in a statement.

It was immediately endorsed by Henning Christophersen, the outgoing European commissioner in charge of monetary affairs attending his last news conference.

"I share that view because otherwise you will run into some practical difficulties," he said of the ideas of speedy but multiple moves to a single currency.

The single currency — a cornerstone of the European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) — is due to be introduced in qualifying and willing EU countries in 1997 at the earliest or by 1999.

The issue of when is a controversial one, with a number of politicians, many of them representing the EU's current French presidency, saying the earlier date was now possible.

French President Francois Mitterrand was among the latest, urging EU nations at the European Parliament last week to strive for 1997.

Mr. Christophersen said 1997 would be difficult but possible.

He said the reason for France's recent push was because EU finance ministers had come to realise that with the rebound of European economies, the economic convergence criteria for a single currency were now reachable in some countries.

"It is logical to say that it could happen in 1997," he said, noting that most EU states had committed themselves to respecting the necessary criteria by that time.

But he also implied that those that did not make the single currency in a first wave might have a hard time on the currency markets as a result.

"Those who are outside a single currency will have to impose more discipline on themselves," the Dane said. "Those who don't participate would be seen by markets as weak currencies."

Attempts to bring EU currencies together by keeping them within narrow trading bands in the so-called exchange rate mechanism (ERM), unravelled in 1993 in a burst of market speculation.

Britain, Greece and Italy are outside the ERM, which is now running under wider

trading bands, while Spain and Portugal are among countries struggling to make the EMU convergence criteria.

The group said it did not consider what the single currency should be called, whether it should be the Euro-mark in Germany and Euro-franc in France or simply the ECU, currently used for the basket of EU currencies known as the European Currency Unit.

"We took it that it is the ECU," Cees Maas, the Dutch banker who chaired the group, said.

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab gas production is set to increase sharply in the next few years as some regional states are expanding output and others are planning to set up giant LNG export facilities, experts said Saturday.

The projects will enable Arab producers to offset a sharp decline in oil earnings and redress imbalances in their budgets after years of surpluses.

Algeria, the biggest gas producer in the region, will increase natural gas production to meet commitments for European customers while Egypt and Libya could sharply boost output if export plans materialised.

# Arab gas output poised for sharp rise

In the Gulf, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has nearly doubled its main liquefied natural gas (LNG) processing facility to face growing demand by its clients in Japan, also the biggest importer of Gulf oil.

Qatar, which possesses the third biggest natural gas reserves in the world, has embarked on multi-billion-dollar projects to tap its giant North Field and boost earnings that have been eroded by lower oil prices and output.

The projects are estimated to cost nearly \$15 billion and production could hit 10 million tonnes by 2000. Qatar has already secured potential buyers from Asia and Turkey

and is negotiating with others.

Oman also plans to build a liquefaction plant at a cost of around \$9 billion to produce six million tonnes per year. The southern Gulf state has also set its sights on Asia for future sales.

"Arab gas output is likely to rise faster in the next few years," said a study by the Bahrain-based Arab Banking Corporation (ABC).

The study obtained Saturday, said Arab states had failed to exploit their massive gas reserves as they had concentrated on the oil sector.

As a result, their commercial gas production of around 168 billion cubic metres (5.6

trillion cubic feet) per year has remained a fraction of their gas reserves of 29.8 trillion cubic metres (933.3 trillion cubic feet).

Their output also accounted for less than seven per cent of the world's total gas production of 62.59 trillion cubic metres (86.3 trillion cubic feet) even though the 22 Arab League members controlled more than 20 per cent of the world's gas reserves of 148 trillion cubic metres (4,933 trillion cubic feet).

Official Arab figures showed natural gas reserves in the Middle East surged by nearly 20 per cent between 1989 and 1994 but production

rose by only 5.6 per cent from 159 billion cubic metres (5.3 trillion cubic feet).

"Arab states, mainly those in the Gulf and North Africa, are set to become key gas producers in the coming years," a Gulf-based oil executive said.

"This will help them make up for weak oil prices as demand for gas is drawing faster than oil due to environmental concerns worldwide," he added.

"Qatar's gas reserves are estimated at 7.07 trillion cubic metres (235.6 trillion cubic feet), nearly 24 per cent of the total Arab gas reserves.

motorcycles and 34,860 compressors of air conditioners, the newspaper said. It did not give comparative figures.

Smuggling, virtually eliminated in the years after the communists came to power in 1949, has staged a comeback since Beijing introduced economic reforms in the 1980s.

Meanwhile many Shanghai enterprises are coming consumers, flooding the market with counterfeit imported products and making false advertising claims, the city's industry and commerce administration bureau says.

The Liberation Daily quoted bureau statistics which show 50 cases of unfair competition were reported last year, with imitations of imported products accounting for half the cases and false advertising accounting for 37 per cent.

# Cotton devastation affects Pakistan's growth rate

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — The Pakistani government, facing a severe setback in its cotton crop this year, has been compelled to revise downward the country's growth rate, officials here said.

The government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto expected an acceleration in gross domestic product (GDP) to seven per cent for fiscal 1994-95, ending June 30, but the actual amount is likely to be only 6.5 per cent, officials said.

An official requesting anonymity said that the "target had to be revised" due to a cotton crop depleted by excessive rains, pests and curd leaf virus.

Ms. Bhutto said last week that the decline in cotton production would result in a lowering of the country's macro-economic targets.

Some analysts described the 6.5 per cent figure as an "optimistic assessment," and warned the final rate could be even lower given the dismal performance of the agriculture sector, which makes up

25 per cent of GDP.

GDP plunged to a record low of 2.3 per cent in 1992-93, but revived to four per cent in 1993-94 when the official target was 7.5 per cent, they said.

According to the State Bank of Pakistan, the major factor behind the low 1993-94 growth rate was also a decline in cotton and wheat production.

Pakistan had expected to produce 9.5 million bales of cotton. But actual production was far below that target, reaching only between 6.5 and 7.5 million bales of 170 kilograms each.

Ms. Bhutto described the shortfall as a "serious blow" to her government's campaign for economic recovery.

Cotton remains Pakistan's major source of foreign exchange and analysts say the loss of one million bales would mean a GDP decline of 0.5 per cent.

Despite the decline, Pakistan is still the world's fourth largest producer of cotton. It is also the third largest exporter of textile goods.

Grown over 2.8 million hectares, cotton feeds more than 300 spinning mills, more than 1,000 cotton gin factories and some 5,000 cotton oil manufacturers in Pakistan. Official sources say Pakistan's earnings from the textile sector amount to more than 60 per cent of the country's total exports.

The domestic textile industry consumes seven million bales of cotton each year. But the third successive crop failure this year has made Pakistan cotton-importing country, losing its status as the second largest exporter of lint cotton.

To overcome the domestic shortage the government has directed the state-run Cotton Export Corporation (CEC)

to import cotton from abroad.

Official sources expect the country to import at least one million bales mostly from the Central Asian republics. The CEC has already contracted 180,000 bales from Turkmenistan.

Experts said that in addition to pest attacks, the area under cotton cultivation also shrank, contributing to the fall in production. Cotton growers are increasingly turning to profitable sugarcane cultivation, they said.

A committee appointed by Ms. Bhutto to analyse the problem and suggest measures to avert the decline in cotton production, has recommended a ban on using seeds susceptible to virus. It has also suggested severe action against adulterators and penalties on companies found guilty of supplying substandard pesticides.

# China seizes smuggled goods worth \$439m

BEIJING (Agencies) — Chinese customs thwarted 886 major smuggling attempts and seized 3.73 billion yuan (\$439 million) worth of contraband in 1994, the overseas edition of People's Daily said Saturday.

Fines slapped on smugglers increased national coffers by 2.2 billion yuan (\$259 million), up 29 per cent from 1993, the newspaper said.

According to incomplete statistics, customs officials seized 26,749 tonnes of smuggled steel products, 6,000 cubic metres (212,000 cubic feet) of plywood and 68,885 tonnes of finished oil products, it said.

Customs authorities also seized 289,000 smuggled pornographic publications and video tapes.

In three months alone, customs officials seized 138 smuggled cars, 5,260

motorcycles and 34,860 compressors of air conditioners, the newspaper said. It did not give comparative figures.

Smuggling, virtually eliminated in the years after the communists came to power in 1949, has staged a comeback since Beijing introduced economic reforms in the 1980s.

Meanwhile many Shanghai enterprises are coming consumers, flooding the market with counterfeit imported products and making false advertising claims, the city's industry and commerce administration bureau says.

The Liberation Daily quoted bureau statistics which show 50 cases of unfair competition were reported last year, with imitations of imported products accounting for half the cases and false advertising accounting for 37 per cent.

# Russia shies away from approving 1995 budget

MOSCOW (R) — Parliament proposed changes to Russia's 1995 budget — Friday and stopped short of approving the spending plans, leaving a top-level IMF delegation waiting for news of Russia's economic future.

A total of 195 deputies voted for the second reading of the budget, compared to 142 against it. But the "yes" vote fell short of the overall majority of 226 needed to approve the plan. Parliament postponed further debate for five days.

The IMF sent a delegation to Moscow to discuss the possibility of granting Russia a \$6.25 billion stand-by loan.

But the loan, already budgeted by Russia as a way to close the gap between income and spending, depends on appropriate policies — a tough budget and clear moves to rein inflation in.

Parliament, pecked with opponents of government re-

form policies, had voted to change the spending plans earlier Friday.

Amendments initially widened the planned deficit to almost 76 trillion roubles (\$19 billion at current exchange rates), but the final figure under discussion at the parliamentary vote was for a deficit of 73.2 trillion roubles (\$18.5 billion).

Deputies fixed 1995 spending at 240.5 trillion roubles (\$61 billion), with income of 167.4 trillion (\$42 billion).

The government had proposed a budget deficit amounting to 71.7 trillion roubles (\$18.1 billion) or 7.7 per cent of gross domestic product.

There was no immediate government reaction to parliament's final plan, but Finance Minister Vladimir Pavlov indicated earlier he would support changes proposed in the morning.

"I am ready to agree to these amendments because it is more important to me that

the budget is adopted," he told reporters.

Some economists said the government figure was never particularly realistic, and the deficit would probably end up around 10 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

"The IMF has supported policies in the past with a deficit as wide as 10 per cent (of GDP) but obviously they are very interested in finding out what Russia plans before deciding whether to approve more money," said one Western economist. "They were pretty close to an agreement late last year, but that was before the Chechnya crisis."

The Chechen crisis, which began last month when Russia sent tanks and troops into the breakaway region to crush its independence bid, has been one of a series of events casting doubts on the government's ability to meet 1995 spending plans.

# HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 1995  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Some obligations could give you trouble if not attended to now. Use today's good aspects to extend your present interests on the home front where you will experience fewer drawbacks than heretofore.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Contact modern thinking friends and find out how you can become more affluent. Avoid one who limits you towards what you desire.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A touch of class put into whatever you are doing can make life more interesting for you now.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can get fine new ideas today and should concentrate on the best way to utilize them. Get away from dull duties.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can make a fine impression via your talents, so stop being so conservative and self-effacing for you to be successful.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is an ideal day to get out in the world of entertainment and relieve tensions you have been under for some time. Be active and happy.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) If you have ideas which are different from the norm, go along with them since they will be of assistance to you and your progress.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are charming today and can make others very much. It is possible to take a chance and win now what ordinarily you could not do.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Use that campaign quality you have to please those who are near and dear to you. Forget your personal desires for a while.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Some special activity can impress your partner, though they are started at first. Enjoy home and family.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Study more modern ways of adding to your property and possessions. Plan how to add to a bank account. Cut down on expenses you incur.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have rather unusual ideas which could prove successful if you put them in motion. Attend a meeting of higher-ups.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get into the privacy of your study and tap your subconscious for fine ideas. Do something which will impress your mate and close associates.

Birthstone of January: Garnet — Rose Quartz

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EAT AT ADAMS

Quality Food  
Atmosphere  
Hospitality  
Quality Live Music

OR END UP WITH A FREE VISIT

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Opposite AbulDahab Bowling Centre  
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Tel. 645229

## Peanuts

## Andy Capp

## Mutt'n'Jeff

## THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
by Henri Arnold and Mike Arginton

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LEDYI  
NALUN  
GIXNIF  
HARTEG

Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

Answers (top row): HUMAN, GUMMY, GAMBLE, FACING

Saturday's Answer: The best thing to do with a corny comedian — GAG HIM

## THE Daily Crossword

by Harold B. Counts

ACROSS

- Old urban
- Kitchen gadget
- Native law in Indiana
- Oh, woe!
- Sole
- Annex
- Olive family trees
- Roman poet
- Experienced
- Cleavage
- Least matter
- Eddie
- Young
- highlander
- Uses deceptive strategy
- Sings
- Candidate for a
- Russian mark
- Scala
- British pears
- Overcharge
- Actor Wallace
- Wheel holders
- Bulwerite, e.g.
- Soldier
- Agreement
- Spud
- Lowest greatly
- Rich chocolate
- 
- Selected
- Cruel treatment
- Less
- Nautical hook
- Spoken
- Get around by
- cleverness
- Profound
- and theatre
- 60
- Natives of Copenhagen
- Made out
- Charm the state
- Old World lacon
- heavyweight, Max
- DOWN
- Crozes
- Nautical term
- Volcanic score
- Sale term
- Indian
- Bitter herb
- Her
- Chip in chips
- Less
- Saddle term
- Southern
- peaches
- Stretched out
- 37
- 38
- 40
- 41
- 42
- 43
- 44
- 45
- 46
- 47
- 48
- 49
- 50
- 51
- 52
- 53
- 54
- 55

Puzzle solved:

ACROSS: 1. JEROME, 2. GARDEN, 3. HANCOCK, 4. STORM, 5. STORM, 6. STORM, 7. STORM, 8. STORM, 9. STORM, 10. STORM, 11. STORM, 12. STORM, 13. STORM, 14. STORM, 15. STORM, 16. STORM, 17. STORM, 18. STORM, 19. STORM, 20. STORM, 21. STORM, 22. STORM, 23. STORM, 24. STORM, 25. STORM, 26. STORM, 27. STORM, 28. STORM, 29. STORM, 30. STORM, 31. STORM, 32. STORM, 33. STORM, 34. STORM, 35. STORM, 36. STORM, 37. STORM, 38. STORM, 39. STORM, 40. STORM, 41. STORM, 42. STORM, 43. STORM, 44. STORM, 45. STORM, 46. STORM, 47. STORM, 48. STORM, 49. STORM, 50. STORM, 51. STORM, 52. STORM, 53. STORM, 54. STORM, 55. STORM.

## Business

### Thousands of farmers benefit from ACC

The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) extended a total of JD14.3 million in loans to 5,687 farmers in 1994. The 4,986 projects included setting up new farms on reclaiming land. According to the ACC chief, 80 per cent of the loans benefited small farmers. He said that 70 per cent of the borrowers were obtaining credits for the first time. Repayments of loans totalled JD12.3 million, compared to JD10.5 million in 1993. The ACC had written off JD11 million of interest on loans extended between Jan. 1, 1981, and Sept. 30, 1994, based on Royal Decree to ease farmers' financial burden and support the agricultural sector. The acceleration of interest covered more than 50,000 small loans, or about 88 per cent of all who benefited from the royal directive (AI Dus-ri).

Small and low-income farmers will be able to benefit from a large-scale project to be implemented next month by the Ministry of Agriculture with the financing coming from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (JFID). The project, to be implemented over seven years, will benefit 8,000 rural families to be helped by the Ministry to raise pure Sham and improved sheep, reseed dairy products and new fruit trees (AI Ra'i).

Farmer social affairs minister Mohammad Sgour is the most likely candidate to fill the post of director-general of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO). The JCO's situation is going to be studied in order to find the most suitable solutions to financial difficulties (AI Dus-ri).

Some sources at the central bank suspect that the forged JD20 bill was printed in Arab Country (AI Dus-ri).

The Natural Resources authority will next week start drilling two new wells in gas production in the Jericho area. The two wells will increase the production from 30 million cubic metres a day to 40 million. Gas production from the Jericho area has reached 39 million cubic metres since the field was discovered in 1989. Oil production from Jericho field has reached 10,000 barrels since the field was discovered in 1985 (AI Ra'i).

The Association of pharmacists intends to increase membership fees to JD20 from JD10 for each pharmacist working as an employee. Owners of pharmacies will pay JD20 each while owners of drug warehouses will pay JD60. The association, whose membership exceeded 3,500, also intends to impose fees on some pharmaceutical institutions which are not being subjected to payments in accordance with the internal regulations of the association (AI Ra'i).

Real Estate Investment Association (A.R.A.) is accepting applications for new shares issued to all its shareholders registered on Jan. 8, 1995. The new shares, priced at JD 300 (JD 1 par value plus JD 299 premium), reflect the increase of the company's capital by JD 3.75 million. The last day for this private subscription is Feb. 16, 1995 (AI Ra'i).

It has been officially confirmed that the government will present to the Lower House of Parliament next week a draft law for encouraging investment which would guarantee the department of encouraging investment financial independence (AI Ra'i).



## Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

### Thousands of farmers benefit from ACC

★ The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) extended a total of JD14.3 million in loans to 5,687 farmers last year. The 4,986 projects entailed setting up new farms or reclaiming land. According to the ACC chief, 80 per cent of the loans benefited small farmers. He said that 70 per cent of the borrowers were obtaining credits for the first time. Repayments of loans totalled JD12.3 million, compared to JD10.5 million in 1993. The ACC had written off JD11 million of interest on loans extended between Jan. 1, 1981, and Sept. 30, 1994, based on Royal directives to ease farmers' financial burden and support the agricultural sector. The cancellation of interest covered more than 50,000 small debtors, or about 88 per cent of all who benefited from the Royal directive (Al Dustour).

★ Small and low-income farmers will be able to benefit from a large-scale project to be implemented next month by the Ministry of Agriculture with the financing coming from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD 10 million) and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD 9 million). The project, to be implemented over seven years, will benefit nearly 8,000 rural families who will be helped by the ministry to raise pure Shami goats and improved sheep, process dairy products, and grow fruit trees (Al Rai).

★ Farmer social affairs minister Mohammad Squir is the most likely candidate to fill the post of director-general of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO). The JCO's situation is going to be studied in order to find the most suitable solutions to its financial difficulties (Al Dustour).

★ Some sources at the central bank suspect that the forged JD20 bill was printed in an Arab Country (Al Dustour).

★ The Natural Resources Authority will next week start drilling two new wells for gas production in the Rishah area. The two wells will increase the production volume from 30 million cubic metres a day to 40 million. Gas production from the Rishah area has reached 39 trillion cubic metres since the field was discovered in 1989. Oil production from Hamzah field has reached 710,000 barrels since the field was discovered in 1985 (Al Rai).

★ The Association of Pharmacists intends to increase membership fees to JD20 from JD10 for each pharmacist working as an employee. Owners of pharmacies will pay JD20 each while owners of drug warehouses will pay JD60. The association, whose membership exceeded 3,500, also intends to impose fees on some pharmaceutical institutions which have not been subjected to such payments in accordance with the internal regulations of the association (Al Rai).

★ Real Estate Investment Co. (Akaro) is accepting subscription for new shares floated to all its shareholders registered on Jan. 8, 1995. The new shares, priced at JD 2.500 (JD 1 par value plus JD 1.5 premium), reflect the increase of the company's capital by JD 3.75 million. The last day for this private subscription is Feb. 16, 1995 (Al Rai).

★ It has been officially confirmed that the government will present to the Lower House of Parliament next month the draft law for encouraging investment which would guarantee the department of encouraging investment an administrative and financial independence (Al Aswag).

## Levine and Zogby discuss Builders of Peace programme

By Rick Marshall  
USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — The first project developed under the Builders of Peace programme, a cement plant owned by Bucheit International of Youngstown, Ohio, opened its doors this week. As such, it marks the first of what is hoped will be many projects in Gaza and the West Bank this special publication programme will sponsor.

Builders of Peace was established at the behest of President Clinton and Vice President Gore after the Declaration of Principles (DOP) was signed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat in September 1993.

The idea was to bring the American Jewish and American Arab communities together, along with U.S. government agencies and Palestinian and Israeli businessmen, in support of the economic development of Gaza and the occupied territories.

As part of this effort, Builders has developed an extensive database to facilitate match-ups between prospective business partners.

The programme has proved a unique opportunity for Jewish and Arab-American businessmen in the United States to work together on a subject of deep interest to them both: The economic development of the region.

"I think there's a real change in the relationship in the two communities," Jim Zogby, a co-president of the Builders programme and the

president of the Arab American Institute said in an interview. "Even where we have differences we talk about them together... (Before) we had no relationship at all. The only time we met was at opposite sides of heated debates on television."

Both Mr. Zogby and Mr. Mel Levine, the former California congressman who serves as the Builders' other president and the link to the Jewish community, stress the commitment of business leaders — both in the United States and in the Middle East — who have dedicated themselves to making the programme work.

"A very solid group of leaders from each community came together," Mr. Levine said in a separate interview. "There is a constant thread of engagement and activity."

This effort has created "substantial interest" in the United States, the West Bank and Israel to work together on building a solid economic base for Gaza and the occupied territories. "We have clearly sunk a foundation," he said. "You have talent on all sides... It's in its infancy, but the opportunity is potentially boundless." Yet both men agree that the pace of investment in the Gaza and the occupied territories has been frustratingly slow. The problem, in Mr. Levine's opinion, lies not with the Palestinians or the Israelis, both of whom "responded promptly and very effectively" when impediments were identified, but with the difficulties inherent in the peace process itself.

"We always anticipated

that our success would be dependent on the success of the peace process. Mr. Levine said, explaining how incidents such as the massacre at Hebron shortly after the signature of DOP slowed the process."

In addition, Mr. Levine said, international donors have been somewhat slow to provide the funding needed to develop the infrastructure on which most of the economic development in Gaza and the occupied territories will depend.

For Mr. Zogby, the problems began with the great expectations created by the DOP itself. The premise was that peace would bring prosperity, he said.

## Privatise MEA, minister says

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's Middle East Airlines (MEA) reported a \$15 million loss in 1994 Saturday and Transport Minister Omar Miskawi was quoted as saying the troubled national carrier should be privatised.

MEA Chairman Abdul Hamid Fakhoury told Reuters the airline lost about \$15 million in 1994 after breaking even in 1993 for the first time in 10 years.

Mr. Fakhoury gave no further details. MEA has not yet published its official results for 1994.

The announcement coincided with publication of a newspaper interview by Mr. Miskawi in which he opposed a proposed \$100 million government loan to modernise MEA's 14-plane fleet.

"The private sector should

be allowed to take over totally and have the treasury carry no loan burden in this field," Mr. Miskawi told the Beirut daily an Nahar.

"I favour proposing new company shares, a new subscription, and that the company should be run by those with the most interest in protecting their investment," he said.

"World developments have begun to reject the principle of the national (airline) company as that policy puts a heavy burden on any government," Mr. Miskawi added.

MEA has since 1993 asked its shareholders, who include the Bank of Lebanon, the Lebanese government, the French and Kuwaiti governments and Lebanese and Kuwaiti investors, for \$150 million capital to finance a

development plan to make it competitive.

It has so far received only a \$15 million loan and Mr. Miskawi said last November the airline was in a critical condition and its future as the national carrier was threatened.

In the an Nahar interview he said there was no programme for spending or repaying the proposed government loan.

"I fear that if we give the company one year to repay the loan and it does not, this would then be extended to

another year, then a third, and so on. And thus the loan would be lost," he said.

An MEA official said last month the government had agreed to lend the airline \$100 million. The proposal has not yet received cabinet approval.

Newspaper reports say there is a dispute between Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri, who wants MEA to repay the cash-strapped government in a year, and parliament speaker Nabih Berri, who wants a three-year repayment period.

## Israeli software industry impresses Jordanian delegation

AMMAN — A delegation of businessmen representing 10 different Jordanian information system companies returned home after participating in the 19th convention of the Information Processing Association of Israel (IPA) upon the invitation of Amiram Shore, chairman of the convention.

The 15-man delegation attended "the borderless world" convention which was opened Sunday at Dan Hotel in Tel Aviv and proceeded at the Jerusalem Convention Centre in the following days, and which was organised by the Israeli Ministry of Trade & Industry, the centre of Jewish-Arab Economic Development and the Israeli Management Centre.

Jordan and Egypt were the only Middle Eastern countries which took part in the event along with the USA, Korea, Israel, India, England and France.

The delegation's participation was under the umbrella of the Jordan Computer Society (JCS), a non-profit organisation established in 1986 as a professional society for individuals and companies in the information technology field with the objective of exploring potential cooperation fields between Jordanian and Israeli companies.

His Majesty King Hussein had said at the signing ceremony of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty in Wadi Araba last year that peace between Jordan and Israel will be a "warm" peace.

This was highlighted by Israeli President Ezer Weizman who welcomed the Jordanian delegation, and criticised the cold peace Israel and Egypt have. The Egyptian delegation to the convention consisted of one businessman in the field. The

delegates were also welcomed by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert.

Chief engineer of Access, one of the Jordanian firms that have participated in the convention told the Jordan Times that although no business deals were made during the visit, the huge potentials of such deals were discussed.

The delegation was headed by Karim Kavar, president of Ideal Systems, the distributor for Apple Computer in Jordan. The delegation comprised of representatives of Access, Arabsoft, Comcon, H.Q. Establishment, Ideal Dimensions, Ideal Soft, Ideal Systems, Jordan Technology Group, National Equipment & Technical Services, TIS Group.

The chief engineer of Access acknowledged that the Israeli information systems firms covered large areas.

"They are far ahead of us in that field, and we have a lot to do if we want to catch up with them. Although this is very difficult, it is not impossible," he said.

According to the Israeli Association of Software Houses (IASH), the Manufacturers' Association of Israel (MAI), and Israel Export Institute (IEI) bulletin, Israel's software industry sales in 1994 reached an estimate of \$800 million, with \$220 million of which was in software export sales.

According to the bulletin, Israeli software exports have spiralled more than thirty-fold between 1984 and 1993, from \$5 million to \$180 million. The estimates for 1994 show a 20% increase of exports. The world software market in 1994 exceeded \$140 billion representing an average annual growth rate of over 15 per cent. (J.T)

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SEKESANT				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 21/01/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK	600	109930	183.250	183.500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	3100	13485	4.290	4.350
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	6224	26183	4.150	4.230
BANK OF JORDAN	560	2044	3.700	3.650
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	400	774	1.520	1.550
THE HOUSING BANK	16150	93383	5.820	5.900
JORDAN KOWAT BANK	92553	286546	3.010	3.050
JORDAN GULF BANK	2700	4178	1.490	1.560
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	23805	89420	3.720	3.760
BUSINESS BANK	10000	35500	3.530	3.590
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	85495	125013	1.440	1.470
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	4235	6706	1.560	1.600
<b>BANKS SECTOR</b>	<b>245851</b>	<b>795276</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 158.63</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.512</b>
ARABIAN SEAS INSURANCE	100	200	2.000	2.000
GENERAL ARABIA INSURANCE	1000	3700	3.700	3.700
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	2000	5200	2.600	2.600
<b>INSURANCE SECTOR</b>	<b>3100</b>	<b>9100</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 136.10</b>	<b>CHANGE: -0.001</b>
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	2634	4054	1.550	1.540
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	8670	9928	1.480	1.490
JORDAN KUTER MINERAL	300	928	3.100	3.750
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	1790	8817	4.750	4.850
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	19700	64784	3.160	3.300
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	1565	3439	2.160	2.200
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	5350	6591	1.300	1.230
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	3575	4421	1.220	1.230
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ARA	2143	26532	12.200	12.250
UNITED KIDDE EAST & CONDORE HOTELS	7211	17106	2.370	2.400
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	54550	150925	3.500	3.500
<b>SERVICES SECTOR</b>	<b>105488</b>	<b>337340</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 131.74</b>	<b>CHANGE: +1.061</b>
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	100	2374	22.610	23.740
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	13592	40067	2.940	2.950
THE ARAB POTASH/NEW	1575	1575	5.300	5.250
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	384	3628	9.450	9.520
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	4078	16883	4.100	4.200
THE JORDAN WOODSTOCK MILLS	3450	27232	7.700	7.900
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	3635	19444	5.340	5.320
JORDAN DAIRY	100	230	2.350	2.300
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	841	661	2.750	2.750
SEITING & WEAVING	2500	8443	1.550	1.650
RAFT INDUSTRIES	1100	3051	2.730	2.770
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	14850	15298	1.010	1.030
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	850	3801	7.020	7.050
LITURGICAL & POLYMER	11600	9874	850	850
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	1000	1410	1.390	1.410
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	250	650	2.620	2.600
JORDAN WOODCOOL INDUSTRIES	7550	11015	1.450	1.480
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MACH/ITMO	6250	5035	800	810
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	300	803	2.690	2.670
KAMMER INVESTMENT	700	1253	1.800	1.790
UNIVERSAL MOORE INDUSTRIES	3800	15769	4.150	4.150
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	8950	19062	2.070	2.150
<b>INDUSTRIAL SECTOR</b>	<b>85280</b>	<b>205628</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 127.21</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.237</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>439719</b>	<b>1347244</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 143.64</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.447</b>
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET : 241624				
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET : 291227				

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# Lakers' buzzer beater downs Celtics 120-118

BOSTON (R) — It wasn't Magic and Bird, but Nick Van Exel made the Los Angeles Lakers' final visit to the Celtics' Boston Garden a night to remember on Friday.

Van Exel took an inbound pass with his back to the basket, turned and hit a 28-foot desperation 3-pointer at the buzzer to give the Lakers a 120-118 victory.

Asked what kind of look he got at the basket, Van Exel said: "It was a horrible one. I wanted to get it up. I thought I traveled and then I thought I was out of bounds. And after I didn't hear a whistle blow, I just shot it up and it went in."

Lakers coach Del Harris said: "He caught the ball, he made an incredible, impossible shot. For the rest of our lives, we'll be able to say the last time we played in Boston Garden, we won the game."

The Celtics will move into the Shawmut Centre next season, leaving the Boston Garden in which they fought so many epic battles with the Lakers. From 1980-89, Magic Johnson's Lakers and Larry Bird's Celtics won a combined eight NBA titles and at least one of the teams was in every final.

The Lakers (23-12) could not return to the Garden unless both they and the Celtics (15-23) reach the finals.

"It's right up there with Magic's hook shot across the key in 1985," Lakers assistant coach Michael Cooper said of Van Exel's shot. "It fits there with Gerald Henderson's steal in '84, when they beat us that year."

Cooper added: "It put the whole series in perspective for me. Every time we play these guys, it had to be something difficult to win the game."

The game-winning hoop came after Dino Radja put back his own miss with 2.4 seconds left to give Boston a 118-117 lead. Radja led the Celtics with 21 points and 12 rebounds.

Cedric Ceballos scored 31 points and Elden Campbell had 30 for Los Angeles. Van Exel finished with 29 points.

In Charlotte, ex-Celtic Robert Parish hit a 15-foot baseline jumper with 1.5 seconds left, then stole an inbound pass to seal the Hornets' 13th straight home victory, a 99-97 triumph over the New Jersey Nets.

Alonzo Mourning had 26 points and 15 rebounds and Muggsy Bogues had 17 points and 13 assists for Charlotte.

In Denver, Arfernee Hardaway scored six of his 27 points in overtime to lift the Orlando Magic to their sixth straight victory, a 112-108 triumph over the Nuggets.

Shaquille O'Neal added 20 points for Orlando.

At Utah, Karl Malone had 28 points and 12 rebounds as the Jazz held on for their eighth straight victory, 94-84 over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Malone became just the 19th player in NBA history to score more than 20,000 points. He entered the game 15 points shy.

The Jazz nearly blew a 20-point lead but improved their record against Eastern Conference teams to 18-1.

In Dallas, Patrick Ewing scored a season-high 36 points as the New York Knicks beat the slumping Mavericks 106-93.

Ewing scored 10 points in the final period as the Knicks got their 11th win in their last 12 games.

The Mavericks have lost 11 of their last 15.

At Detroit, Hakeem Olajuwon scored 24 of his 34 points in the second half and added 12 rebounds and four blocks to power the Houston Rockets past the Pistons, 106-96, snapping a three-game losing streak.

The Pistons have dropped 12 of their last 14 games.

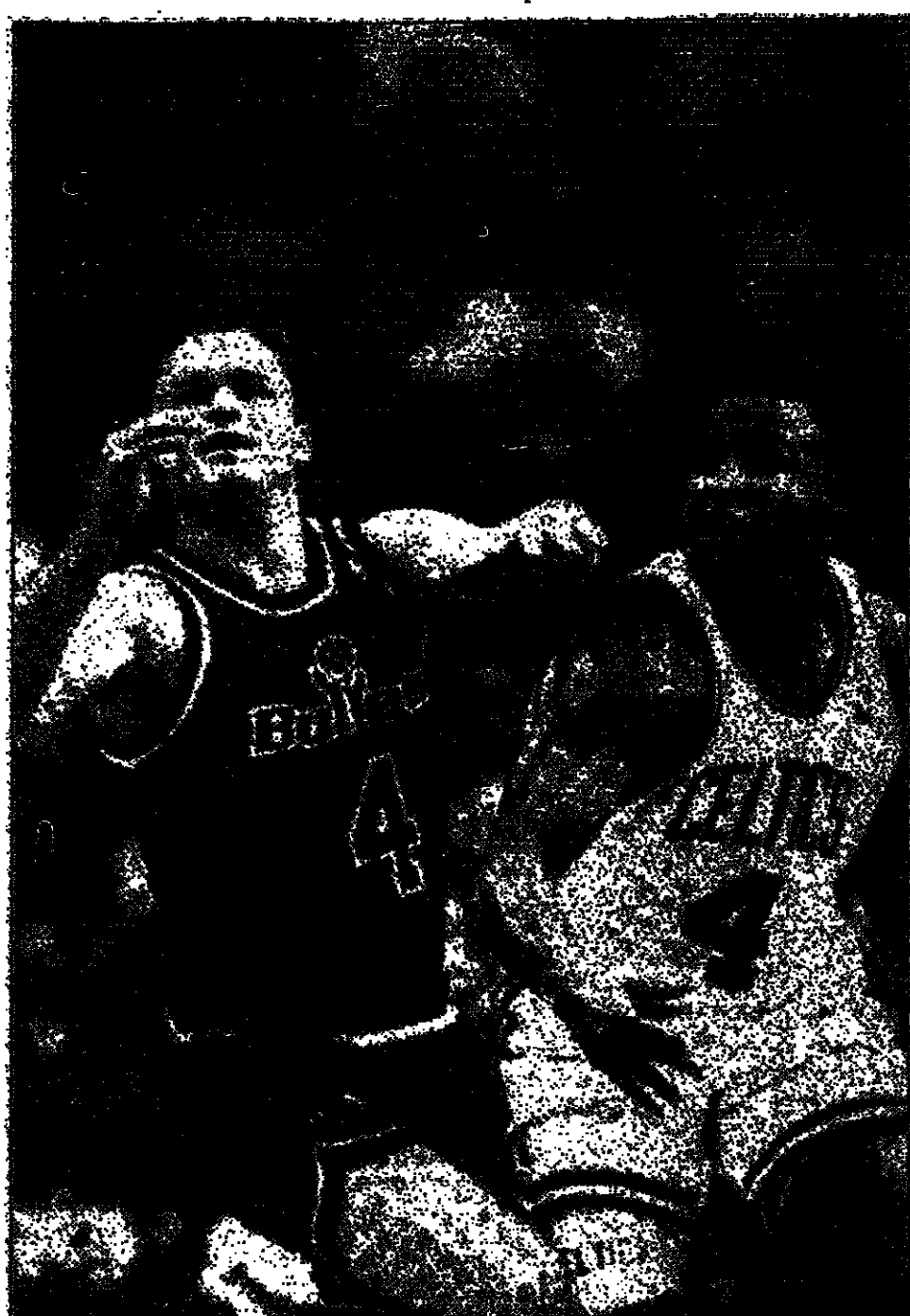
At Indiana, Reggie Miller made all four of his 3-point attempts and scored 15 points and Byron Scott added four during a 10-0 spurt early in the fourth quarter to lift the Pacers to a 99-89 victory over the Atlanta Hawks.

In Chicago, B.J. Armstrong had 22 points and Scottie Pippen 16 as the Bulls beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 93-86.

The Bulls improved to 12-0 lifetime against the Wolves while snapping a season-high four-game losing streak.

The Timberwolves have dropped 10 of their last 12 games.

In Miami, David Robinson scored 26 points, including a



David Wesley (right) of the Boston Celtics against Scott Skiles of the Washington Bullets knocks the ball loose in a defensive play in their NBA game.

pair of free throws with 5.5 seconds left in overtime, giving the San Antonio Spurs a 115-114 triumph over the Heat.

San Antonio played without temperamental forward Dennis Rodman, who was benched for one game after he failed to attend the morning shootaround.

In Los Angeles, Clyde Drexler scored 28 points to lead the Portland Trail Blazers to an easy 108-97 victory over the Clippers, snapping a three-game losing streak.

Portland played without Harvey Grant, Jerome Kersey and James Edwards, who were serving one-game suspensions for their roles in a brawl against Sacramento earlier this week.

In Baltimore, Scott Skiles had a game-high 28 points and Calbert Cheaney added 25 to lead the Washington Bullets past the visiting Philadelphia 76ers, 102-98.

Washington won for only the second time in 13 games. The Sixers have dropped 10 of their last 11.

## RESULTS

LA Lakers	120	Boston	118
Charlotte	99	New Jersey	97
Indiana	99	Atlanta	89
San Antonio	115	Miami	114 (OT)
Washington	102	Philadelphia	98
Orlando	112	Denver	108 (OT)
Houston	106	Detroit	96
Chicago	93	Minnesota	86
New York	106	Dallas	93
Utah	94	Cleveland	84
Portland	108	LA Clippers	97

## Tunisian Al-Taraggi win Super Cup

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Keneth Malitoly and Abdel-Qader Bil-Hassan scored six minutes apart in the first half to pace Al Taraggi of Tunisia to a 3-0 victory over Zaire's Motema Pembe and the African Super Cup champion.

Malitoly opened the scoring in the 26th minute and Bil-Hassan added the insurance in the 32nd minute.

Al-Taraggi, the reigning African Cup champions, dominated Motema Pembe, the Cup Winners Cup holder, throughout and added an own goal in the 68th minute.

## Japan, UAE in Asian Cup Winners' final

SHARJAH (R) — Japan's Yokohama Flügels will play for soccer glory Sunday against United Arab Emirates' Al-Shaab in the Asian Cup Winners' Cup.

Flügels made it to the final after a thrilling 4-2 win (half-time 0-1) over telephone organization of Thailand Friday night.

Al-Shaab's bad-tempered match against Al-Ittihad of neighbouring Saudi Arabia ended 1-1 after extra time (fulltime 1-1, half-time 0-1) but finally the home side won a penalty shoot-out 4-3.

Jasim Mohammad Al-Doukhi's equaliser for Al-Shaab late in injury time equalised Abdullah Fawal's 27th minute strike for the Saudi Arabian side, triggering extra time in a match played in the UAE state of Sharjah and attended by 8,500 people.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Norwegian fans win sportsmanship award

PARIS (AP) — The Norwegian fans of the Winter Olympics, an Australian bobsledder and FIFA, world soccer's governing body, were selected winners of UNESCO's annual sportsmanship award Friday. The international fair play committee, in association with UNESCO, said the Pierre de Coubertin trophies will present the awards at a ceremony in Stuttgart, Germany, Jan. 29. Norway's King Harald V will receive the award on behalf of his people, who cheered not only for their own athletes but also nearly every competitor during the Olympics last February in Lillehammer Games.

### Senna's death forces Imola changes

IMOLA (R) — Organisers of the San Marino Grand Prix presented a \$6.1 million plan on Friday to improve safety at the Formula One track where Ayrton Senna crashed to his death last year. The plan to modify the Tamborello, Villeneuve and Lower Variante curves could begin within 10 days pending approval by Italy's environment minister, race organisers said. But they added the changes, estimated to cost \$9.8 billion lire (\$6.1 million), might not be finished before the scheduled race date of April 30 and suggested the Grand Prix could be postponed until May 14. Brazilian Senna, a triple world champion, died last May after crashing into the wall at Imola's Tamborello curve, just 24 hours after Austrian Roland Ratzenberger died following his crash in final qualifying.

### Baggio, Romario, Stoichkov award finalists

LISBON (R) — Strikers Roberto Baggio of Italy, Brazilian Romario and Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov are the finalists for the 1994 FIFA world player of the year award, a FIFA spokeswoman announced. The trio led a list of players rejected in a vote by more than 100 national coaches from all over the world. The name of the winner will be disclosed at a gala in Lisbon on January 30. Previous winners were German Lothar Matthaus (1991), Dutchman Marco Van Basten (1992), and Baggio (1993).

### Osaka women's marathon to be cancelled

TOKYO (AP) — The Osaka Women's Marathon scheduled for Jan. 29 will be called off because of Tuesday's devastating earthquake in the Kobe-Osaka area, news reports said Friday. Kyodo news service, quoting unnamed officials of the Japan Amateur Athletic Federation, said a formal announcement to cancel the race will be made by Sunday. Sports officials were not immediately available for comment Friday night. The Osaka race is an annual event which began in 1982. About a dozen top foreign runners have been invited each year.

### Taiwan to lobby support for Asian Games bid

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan is planning to send a mission to Kuwait early next month to lobby support for the island's bid to host the 2002 Asian Games, state television said on Friday. It will be the first lobbying trip since the cabinet officially named the southern port city of Kaohsiung for the island's bid to stage the games. China regards Taiwan as a renegade province since the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949 and opposes Taipei's use of sport to battle diplomatic isolation. Taiwan was forced to send its deputy premier Hsu Li-Teh to the Asian Games in Japan's Hiroshima in October last year after China blocked president Lee Teng-Hui's attendance.

### Bubka to make rare appearance

NEW YORK (R) — The Millrose Games athletics meeting gained some added luster when organisers announced that pole vault world record holder Sergei Bubka would be making a rare New York appearance. If the Ukrainian who has dominated his event like none other is going to bother to make the trip from his base in Berlin, only one result is acceptable. "Of course the first thing for me that's important is to be a winner, the second thing in my tradition is to do a good result" said Bubka in a teleconference to announce his participation in the Feb. 3 meeting. Bubka will appear at Madison Square Garden for the first time in seven years and fifth time in his illustrious career. He won the event at the U.S. indoor championships, in New York in 1984 and 1990.

### Damon Hill faces speeding charge

LONDON (R) — British Grand Prix racing driver Damon Hill faces a speeding charge after police alleged he clocked more than 100 mph (160 kph) on a motorway last month, court officials said. Hill, 34, was stopped by a police patrol on the M40 motorway in Oxfordshire, north of London, on December 5. The Williams Renault driver is due to appear before magistrates on March 1 charged with driving at 102.7 mph. The speed limit on British motorways is 70 mph (112 kph). Hill was narrowly pipped to the 1994 Formula One world title by German Michael Schumacher.

### Stoichkov loses appeal

MADRID (AFP) — Barcelona's Bulgarian international Hristo Stoichkov lost his appeal against a two match suspension after he was sent off during a league match earlier this month. The Spanish Football Federation rejected a plea that the ban should be reduced to only one game. Stoichkov was given his marching orders shortly before half-time after hacking down Real Madrid's Sanchez Flores. Ten-man Barcelona went on to lose the match 5-0.

### Yeboah finally gets work permit

LONDON (AP) — Ghanaian striker Anthony Yeboah's transfer to Leeds was formally completed when he was granted a work permit by the department of employment. The Premier League club had been trying for two weeks to obtain a permit for Yeboah, who joins Leeds from Eintracht Frankfurt in a 3.4-million-pound (\$5.1 million) transfer deal. It was not immediately known whether Yeboah will make his Leeds debut at Leicester.

### Super Bowl tickets swiped

MIAMI (AFP) — Thieves who stole 262 Super Bowl tickets from a package delivery service might make a bundle re-selling the seats, but buyers will be unable to use them to watch the game in person. The tickets, each valued at \$200, were sent to a delivery service last week by the Miami Dolphins, the host team for the January 29 American Football Championship game. But a caller identifying himself as Dolphins' general manager Eddie Jones telephoned the FedEx office to tell officials not to send out the tickets. He said two men would be sent to retrieve the seats. When two men arrived for them, a clerk handed them over. Only later was it determined the call and the pickup men were fakes. With a brisk market for reselling tickets, the thieves could expect to make \$250,000 dollar on their purloined prizes. But anyone paying for them will be out of luck.

## Jordan Soccer League

# Al Wihdat eye title: relegation battle rages

## Ramtha lodge complaint with JSF

By Aileen Bannayan

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — While Al Wihdat stayed atop the 12-team first division soccer standings after their 1-1

draw with Al Ramtha Friday awaiting their upcoming match to decide if they win the prestigious crown, Al

Ramtha were not content with the result and proceedings of the match and have already lodged an official complaint with the

Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) citing that the referee had cancelled a clear goal minutes before they scored their equaliser by a penalty

kick.

Had Al Ramtha won the match they would have doubled their chances of winning the title for the third time. However they must now beat Shabab Al

Hussein in their upcoming match while hoping that Al Wihdat lose theirs against Al Arabi so that both

teams tie in overall points, forcing a deciding match.

Al Wihdat need only to draw with Al Arabi to win the title. They now have 34 points while Al Ramtha are second with 32.

Meanwhile Al Hussein scored a 4-1 victory over Al Jazireh Saturday to raise their overall points to 30 but still remained fourth.

They will clash with Al Faisali in their final match.

Al Faisali remained third after a 3-0 drubbing of Kufroum who, together with Al Arabi and Al Qadissieh hover near the relegation zone of the last four.

Jiryes Tadros is now the

league's top scorer after netting two goals from penalty kicks for Al Faisali in the 86th and 92nd minutes.

Teammate Jamal Abu Abed had opened scoring in the 33rd minutes.

Tadros now leads the top scorers with 16 goals, while Al Ramtha's Mouaffaq Abu Hdeib, dropped to second with 14 goals.

At Amman's Al Petra Stadium, Al Karmel's Nizar Shamekh gave his team a face-saving second win of the competition after a 1-0 victory over last-placed Al Jeel.

Both teams, together with Shabab Al Hussein and a fourth team will drop to the second division.

In another of the week's matches Al Qadissieh improved their record trying to move away from the last four after a 3-1 win over Shabab Al Hussein.

Al Qadissieh moved up an important step from 9th

to 7th after Kufroum and Arabi lost their final match.

Meanwhile, Al Ahli pushed Al Arabi toward relegation with a 3-0 win.

Maher Hantash opened scoring and striker Nart Yada added the other two in the 61st and 87th minutes.

Al Arabi will next have to beat Al Wihdat to avoid relegation.

On the other hand, Al Ahli have secured their place in the division despite earlier inconsistent results which led many to believe they would surely drop.

Al Arabi are a step away from the second division as they are now 9th and have a difficult match against leaders Al Wihdat.

Kufroum, the only newcomer to have maintained a halfway standing throughout most of the competition, are now eighth after two consecutive defeats. They will next play Al Karmel.

## Standings after 20th week

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Wihdat	21	13	8	—	27	5	34
Ramtha	21	13	6	2	43	13	32
Faisali	21	12	7	2	41	9	31
Hussein	21	14	2	5	52	24	30
Jazireh	21	10	5	6	30	22	25
Ahli	21	8	6	7	29	28	22
Qadissieh	21	7	6	8	26	25	20
Kufroum	21	9	2	10	28	34	20
Arabi	21	7	5	9	26	33	19
Shabab Al Hussein	21	2	4	15	20	45	8
Karmel	21	2	4	15	14	50	8
Jeel	21	1	1	19	11	58	3

## Flamengo sign Branco

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazilian international defender Branco has joined Flamengo less than a week after the club recruited his World Cup winning teammate Romario.

"He's signed for us and he's wearing the club jersey right now," said Merco's Felipe Magalhães, Flamengo's marketing head.

Branco signed a six-month contract with the Rio club worth \$200,000 to the player who last season won a Brazilian championship runners-up medal with Corinthians of Sao Paulo.

The left-back, whose form in the Brazilian domestic game has been erratic, became a national hero when he rifled in a 30-metre free kick to earn his side a World Cup semifinal win over the Netherlands.

Romario, whose transfer from Barcelona cost Flamengo \$4.5 million, is likely to wear the number one shirt, Magalhães said.



Brazil's Branco (left) hugs teammate Romario after they won the 1994 World Cup final (AFP photo)

## Foreman to defend title against Schulz

LAS VEGAS (AP) — George Foreman, biding his time waiting for Mike Tyson, will be guaranteed a \$10 million payday to fight unranked and little-known Axel Schulz of Germany.

Foreman's popularity was demonstrated again Friday with a tentative agreement for him to defend his newly won heavyweight title April 22 against Schulz at the MGM Grand hotel-casino.

The cable television network HBO will pay a record rights fee for the fight, and the MGM will add millions more for the 46-year-old champion's first defences of

his World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation titles.

"He's a big, big star," said Seth Abraham, president of Time-Warner Sports, which operates HBO. "George Foreman will deliver an enormous rating for HBO."

Promoter Bob Arum said Foreman will be guaranteed \$10 million for the fight, which was originally scheduled for the superdome in New Orleans.

Arum said Foreman wants to fight Schulz, then meet Tyson in what could be boxing's biggest money fight ever, before finally retiring.

"A Tyson fight would be the hope and expectation," Arum said. "George is talking about fighting this fight and then one more and that's it."

Tyson would have to be out of prison first, something expected to happen this year, and Foreman would have to beat Schulz, also expected to happen.

The 26-year-old Schulz is 22-1-1, with most of his fights in Germany. He has fought as light as 199 pounds (90 kg), while Foreman regularly weighs about 250 pounds (113 kg).

Now let's try counting. Declarer has five club tricks, two major-suit aces and a spade suit available. That means four trump tricks are enough to guarantee the slam. Doesn't that suggest an alternative approach?

As before, declarer should lead the jack of trumps from dummy, but when East covers, declarer should simply allow the queen to hold. As long as West follows, the plan is in the bag. Declarer can win any return, ruff a spade, return to hand to draw trumps and then run clubs. You hardly need more than the fingers of your two hands to find the winning line.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH GOREN SHARF & TANNIAH HIRSCH  
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North-South vulnerable. South deals.				8 PLUS 4 EQUALS 12			
NORTH				50 Pass 50 Pass			
♠ A				Opening lead: Four of ♠			
♥ Q 8 5 3				Life would be so simple if we only learned to always cover. See how easy it would be to fulfill this contract.			
♦ J 8 3				The bidding was excellent. North first bid both suits then made a spade cue bid. When South showed only three-card heart support by selecting five diamonds as the contract, North realized that even a minimum hand with the right controls should deliver 12 tricks and contracted for slam.			
♣ A K Q J 10				Declarer won the opening lead in dummy and led the jack of diamonds, covered by the queen and won with the ace. A second high trump was cashed to reveal the unlucky break. A spade was ruffed and the only chance was to find East			
WEST				SOUTH			
♠ Q 10 7 4 3				♠ 7 5 3			
♥ A 9 8 2				♥ A 7 2			
♦ Q 9 4				♦ A K 10 5 2			
♣ 8 5 5 2				♣ 7 3			
The bidding:				The bidding:			
South West North East				South West North East			
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass				1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass			
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass				2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass			
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass				3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass			
4 NT Pass 4 ♠ Pass				4 NT Pass 4 ♠ Pass			



## Put some money on me, says confident Agassi

MELBOURNE (R) — Andre Agassi advised would-be punters Saturday to bet on him for the Australian Open title after another outstanding centre court display guaranteed his presence in the last 16.

The world number two from Las Vegas, a self-confessed gambling man, suggested he would be "worth a few bucks" after overwhelming Canadian Greg Rusedski 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 in a mere 82 minutes on centre court.

Agassi, like defending champion Pete Sampras, has yet to drop a set at the year's first Grand Slam tournament and sees no reason why he cannot repeat his triumph at the U.S. Open last September.

"I'm hitting the ball well, serving well and I'm quite comfortable against anyone," he said. "It's worth a few bucks I think."

"It's nice to get that first week out of the way and to feel as though the tournament has just started. I think that's most important," Agassi added. "Once you can work your way into the second week, things start kicking in and you really have a shot at winning it."

Agassi also made a supportive gesture towards Sampras' coach Tim Gullikson, still in hospital after falling ill at Flinders Park Friday, leaving a handwritten sign with the words "Gully, get well soon" on court beside his chair.

The cold, blustery day saw the fall of three seeds — Austria's Thomas Muster in the men's tournament and

Japan's Kimiko Date and American Lori McNeil in the women's.

But Agassi's form sent a shiver through the increasingly depleted bottom half of the men's draw.

The early defeats of seeds Boris Becker, Wayne Fer-

had been spared a fourth round clash with the 19th-ranked Petr Korda.

The Czech lefthander, forced to endure a punishing five-setter in roasting temperatures in his previous match, made a lacklustre start against American Krickstein

### Australian Open

14th seed muster in an acrimonious contest.

The day's outstanding performance in the women's singles came from Japan's Naoko Sawamatsu, whose family home was destroyed in Tuesday's earthquake.

The 21-year-old gave her parents some slight consolation by knocking out seventh-seeded compatriot Kimiko Date 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 to reach the last 16 at Flinders Park for the first time.

The battling Sawamatsu sought advice on whether to pull out of the tournament after hearing the news about her home in Nishinomiya, a suburb of Kobe, but hung in to claim her first win over Date since 1990.

The unpredictable wind also claimed 15th seed McNeil, who went down 6-6 in a third set to 21-year-old Mexican Angelica Gavaldon.

McNeil, who topped Steffi Graf in the first round of Wimbledon last June, served 12 double faults as Gavaldon, a quarter-finalist five years ago at the age of 16, fought back from a set down.

Top seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, playing on the more enclosed centre court, breezed through 6-1, 6-3 against American Zina Garrison Jackson, but Jana Novotna claimed conditions on the outside courts were some of the worst she had experienced.

"I don't remember when I

played in such weather. Everyone plays ugly tennis in this kind of weather but as long as I win that's all that matters," said the Czech third seed after edging past American Lisa Raymond 9-7 in the final set.

### Australian Open notebook

★ American Vince Spadea's start to the 1995 tennis circuit has been a big success, with the 20-year-old Chicago-born player reaching the third round of the Australian Open.

Spadea, who played a number of challenger series events last year but will play the main circuit fulltime this year, also advanced to the semifinals of last week's tour event in Auckland before losing to countryman Chuck Adams. He has a 5-1 record and is ranked 68th after starting the year 80th.

He is a product of the United States Tennis Association's Touring Pro Program that also has among its alumni his next opponent, Todd Martin, and Lindsay Davenport.

★ Happily Anonymous: Todd Martin is happily working his way through the opening rounds of the Australian Open without any fuss.

Martin was beaten by Pete Sampras in last year's final and is the no. 8 seed this time around, but most of the attention has been centred on his fellow Americans Pete Sampras, Jim Courier and Andre Agassi. That suits Martin just fine.

"All those guys have won some pretty big matches and



Stefan Edberg bites into his birthday cake presented to him by the Australian Open organising committee following his match (AFP photo)

I've won some pretty big matches — but not with the consistency those guys have," Martin said.

"I think until I can come through and prove I can win a tournament like this, I won't be considered a favourite like those guys."

★ Women's woes: For the first time since 1969, no Australian woman progressed past the second round at the Australian Open.

It is also 15 years since an Australian woman last won a Grand Slam singles title — Evonne Goolagong Cawley

triumphing at Wimbledon.

But Kristin Godridge, who was the last Australian woman survivor in the Open, says growing criticism of the local players is unfair.

"Women's tennis (in Australia) is not as hopeless as everyone makes it out to be," said Godridge. "We are all heading in the right direction."

## Rangers lose in NHL season opener

NEW YORK (R) — After a 103-day lockout, the National Hockey League season finally began on Friday and the New York Rangers got to raise their first Stanley Cup Championship banner in 54 years.

Unfortunately, after a 45-minute celebration, they had to play a game, and the Buffalo Sabres dampened the spirits of the Madison Square Garden crowd with a 2-1 victory.

Donald Audette's slap shot through the legs of goalie Mike Richter goal with 14:35 left in the third period gave Buffalo the win and goalie Grant Fuhr made it stand up. "I picked up my speed and stayed wide and fired the puck, another lucky goal," said Audette.

Fuhr, starting ahead of Vezina Trophy winner Dominik Hasek, made 29 saves for Buffalo, which posted its first win at Madison Square Garden since March 8, 1989.

"We tried to keep it close and tight," Fuhr said. "Games like these are fun to play. We hope we get off to a quick start because now every game's important."

The season was shortened from 84 games to 48 because of the lockout.

Steve Larmer made it 1-0 for New York at 3:35 of the first period but Dale Hawerchuk scored just 62 seconds later after Yuri Khmylev broke down the middle ahead of the Rangers' sleeping defence.

"Perhaps we were looking forward to the ceremony more than the game," said Rangers defenceman Kevin Lowe.

New York captain Mark Messier took the opening faceoff for the Rangers, although he and team officials still have not resolved his contract. Negotiations are continuing.

The Sabres played without superstar centre Pat Lafontaine, whose status remains day-to-day due to problems

stemming from reconstructive knee surgery.

In Vancouver, Mike Peca's power-play goal with 3:45 left in the third period lifted the Western Conference champion Canucks into a 1-1 tie with the Dallas Stars.

Vancouver played without new head coach Rick Ley. Ley is serving a three-game suspension because left wing Gino Odjick left the bench to

join a fight in a pre-season game against Los Angeles. Assistant Ron Smith took Ley's place.

At Detroit, Slava Kozlov scored a goal and set up another in the first period and the Red Wings broke a 12-year winless streak in season openers with a 4-1 victory over the Chicago Blackhawks.

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### ANNOUNCEMENT ANNUAL U.S. DIVERSITY IMMIGRATION PROGRAM

The American Embassy in Jordan announces the start of the Annual Diversity Immigration Program for 1996. The U.S. Immigration Act of 1990 makes available worldwide each year, by random selection, 55,000 visas for permanent residence in the United States. Visas are awarded to eligible applicants who win the lottery. Participation in the lottery is free. There is no special form. For your convenience, a sample form and detailed instructions on how to participate in the lottery will be available at the Front Gate of the Embassy. Use the sample as your model for how to apply for this special program.

Please do not telephone, write, or fax the American Embassy for any information on this program. All necessary information is contained in the information handout available at the Embassy's Front Gate.

GOOD LUCK.

### NOTICE OF SALE

Date of sale:

Tuesday, January 24, 1995, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Location:

Warehouse near 7th Circle.

Items to be sold:

Furniture, various office items and automobiles.

Conditions of sale:

This sale will be conducted by seal-bid. Bid forms will be available at time of sale. All items will be available for inspection at the time of sale. A deposit of 20 per cent of the total bid is required at the time of bid.

All bidders will be notified and deposits refunded beginning on Wednesday, January 25, 1995.

All property must be removed within 24 hours of notification. If not, a storage of JD 50 per day will be imposed. All bids must be deposited by 12:00 p.m. on January 25, 1995.

All property is sold on an as-is, where-is, non-returnable basis for cash payment without refund or warranty.

### HAYA CULTURAL CENTER

in cooperation with the Goethe-Institute

presents an exhibition of children's works from Haya Center painting and drawing classes opening on Monday 23 of Jan. 1995 at 5 p.m. until Sunday 29, of January.

For more information, please call 641993 or 665195

### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

A major travel company is in need of a German Native Speaker executive secretary to work in their Amman branch. CV with all details should be sent to the following address:

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Jim Carrey in <b>THE MASK</b>		Fifi Abdo, Mamduh Abdul Alim & Adel Adham in: <b>The Banner Is Red</b> Arabic		<b>CONCORD "1"</b> Sylvester Stallone - Sharon Stone in <b>THE SPECIALIST</b>		SUM'A in the satirical play <b>HI CITIZEN</b> Composed and directed by Mohammad Al Shawaqfeh Daily from 8 p.m. Children's Play <b>The Ninja Turtles Show</b> Directed by Akram Abul Ragheb Daily at 10:30 p.m.	Presents <b>Abu Awwad</b> in the social comedy <b>Punctured Bag</b> The theatre is closed on Mondays Tickets are available all day	Presents: The political satire: <b>AL SALAM YA SALAM</b> at 8:30 p.m. For reservation, please call 625155 in English Sunday	
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 The movie: <b>The Lion King</b> will be shown at 5 p.m. every evening as well as extra shows on Fridays and Thursdays at 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:30 <b>CONCORD "2"</b> Harrison Ford - Whitney Houston — <b>THE BODYGUARD</b>					



## Pelletreau rejects Egyptian position on nuclear accord

CAIRO (Agencies) — A senior U.S. State Department official arrived here Saturday after throwing cold water on Egypt's threat not to renew its adherence to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) if Israel fails to sign on.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East Affairs Robert Pelletreau told Egyptian journalists before leaving Washington that his government wanted an unconditional renewal of the NPT passed in 1970 and signed by 169 states.

"The United States is working for a solution to the crisis" by trying "to convince the signatory countries not to link their position on the treaty's adoption to the position of another country," he was quoted as saying.

Mr. Pelletreau was met by Foreign Ministry officials at Cairo airport where he made no further statements.

The treaty, which comes up for renewal in April, has not been signed by Israel which has never acknowledged possessing nuclear weapons, although Western experts say it has about 200 warheads.

Mr. Pelletreau, who is to take part in preparatory meetings here Sunday and Monday for a full session of multilateral peace talks in Geneva in March, would also try to resolve differences over the NPT, Western diplomats said.

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin is due in Cairo on Sunday to try to defuse tension with Egypt over the NPT and will also take part in the preparatory multilateral talks, his ministry said.

The Egyptian daily Akhbar Al Yom said Washington is studying a compromise under which Israel says it is ready to sign the treaty following the signing by the other countries.

This proposal will be presented by Vice President Al Gore during his scheduled visit here in March, it said, although it was not clear if Mr. Pelletreau would discuss the proposal with the Egyptians.

Mr. Pelletreau said his country "would support the

proposal by President Hosni Mubarak to make the Middle East a zone free of all kinds of weapons of mass destruction," according to press reports here Saturday.

The U.S. embassy said Mr. Pelletreau was to hold two days of talks in Cairo on the Middle East peace process.

### Lebanon security

Before he left Washington, Mr. Pelletreau said he was looking forward to the upcoming visit there of a Lebanese team to review the security situation there in the hope that this would lead to the lifting of the U.S. ban against travel to Lebanon.

Mr. Pelletreau issued his welcome in reply to a question at a briefing at the Foreign Press Centre in which he reviewed U.S. goals and achievements in the Middle East.

He said the team's visit, tentatively scheduled for early next month, "will permit both sides to look at the security situation in Lebanon and... various aspects of it in greater depth than we have up till this point."

On the U.N. sanctions on Iraq, Mr. Pelletreau said:

"It's not up to the United States to lift sanctions or not. This is a Security Council decision. And as you know, the Security Council reviews the sanctions situation with respect to Iraq every 60 days. And at the review that took place earlier this month, there was unanimous agreement that the sanctions should remain in place, because Iraq has not yet complied with the Security Council resolution. There was no disagreement on this."

"The next review will be 60 days after that, and we will see what the situation is then. But there's no disagreement among the major members of the Security Council that Iraq needs to comply with the Security Council resolutions. And we'll be examining what the situation is each time the review comes up."

"If we are successful, if the sanctions are successful in producing full Iraqi compliance with the resolutions, then it would be appropriate to consider lifting the sanctions. But not before then."

## Iran in 'crash effort' on nuclear weapons

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher Friday accused Iran of engaging in a "crash effort" to develop nuclear arms and said countries assisting Tehran threaten Middle East security.

In a speech at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of government, he renewed U.S. charges that Iran is "leading reactionist efforts to kill the chances for peace" by directing and financing groups such as Hamas and Hizbollah and sowing extremism across the Arab World.

The U.S. case against Iran comes at a time when Israel also claims that Tehran has made a significant advance in its nuclear capabilities and has raised the possibility of pre-emptive military strikes to short circuit the effort.

Some Israeli officials say Iran could produce a bomb in less than five years, although U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry sees a longer time frame of seven to 15 years. "Those industrialised nations that continue to provide concessionary credits to Iran cannot escape the consequences of their actions," Mr. Christopher said in an unusually strong public admonition. The text of his speech, delivered in Massachusetts, was released in Washington by the State Department.

"They make it easier for Iran to use its resources to sponsor terrorism and undermine the prospects for peace," he said.

Mr. Christopher also charged that "today Iran is engaged in a crash effort to develop nuclear weapons" and expressed deep concern that some other nations are prepared to cooperate with Tehran in the nuclear field.

Asserting that the United States places the highest priority on denying Iran a nuclear weapons capability, he said: "We expect members of the (U.N.) Security Council, who have special responsibilities in this area, to join with us."

Mr. Christopher did not

publicly specify the countries he was targeting in his speech. U.S. officials said their concerns about concessionary loans to Iran centred on Germany and Japan.

The United States has long been concerned about Soviet and more recently, Russian, arms sales to Iran. Mr. Christopher raised this subject again in talks in Geneva last week with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin last year promised President Bill Clinton his country would halt future arms sales to Tehran after it completes existing contracts signed in 1989.

But his government so far has failed to turn over critical data about the size and duration of those contracts. Officials said Mr. Christopher made no progress on this issue in Geneva.

Russia recently signed an \$800 million contract to complete construction of a nuclear power plant at Bushehr in Iran that was abandoned by German companies. Mr. Christopher voiced concerns about this arrangement with Mr. Kozyrev as well.

Russia is keen to rebuild old markets following the fall of the Soviet Union but the Americans say helping Iran become a nuclear power could seriously undercut Russian security.

In his speech, Mr. Christopher said the centerpiece of the U.S. non-proliferation agenda in 1995 is achieving indefinite and unconditional extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which aims to curb the spread of nuclear arms.

Iran, although a member of the NPT, is said to be organising opposition to renewal on the grounds that the agreement perpetuates the nuclear monopoly of the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France.

Iran and other Middle East countries, including traditional American ally Egypt, are also angered that Israel, a nuclear power, has refused to sign the treaty.



REFUGEE: A man sits outside his tent early Saturday in a playground where he and other earthquake refugees are living temporarily. More than 310,000 people are staying in

makeshift shelters, and officials predict that refugees will be homeless for the duration of the winter (see page one) (AFP photo)

## 2 remanded in London in Israeli embassy explosion

LONDON (R) — A court on Saturday ordered the detention of a man and a woman charged with causing a blast at the Israeli embassy last July that injured 14 people.

Magistrates remanded Jawad Mahmoud Botmeh, 27, and Nadia Zekra, 48, in custody until Jan. 27. No details of their addresses or occupations were given.

The pair, reported to be holding Jordanian passports, were also charged with a bomb attack on a Jewish charity in north London, hours after the embassy blast. Six people were injured.

Botmeh and Zekra were accused of conspiring to plant a car bomb that exploded outside the Israeli embassy in Kensington, West London, last July 26 at the height of the Middle East peace process.

Police said it was a miracle that no one was killed by the explosion, which extensively damaged nearby buildings. The bomb went off as police were checking the car.

Police issued a description of a well-dressed, middle-aged woman of Mediterranean appearance carrying a Harrods shopping bag who was seen parking outside the embassy and then walking calmly away just seconds before the blast.

It later emerged the woman was challenged by police outside the embassy but said she was visiting friends.

The following day, four people were hurt in an explosion at a north London property used by Israeli and Jewish organisations.

Three other people arrested with Botmeh and Zekra on Tuesday under Britain's prevention of terrorism act were released and will face no further action.

Outside the court Botmeh's solicitor, Tony Braithwaite, said: "My client will strongly be protesting his innocence throughout this matter."

The London attacks came the day after Israel and Jordan signed a treaty formally ending their 46 years of hostilities and reopening the border, a significant step in the Middle East's fragile peace process.

Hamas, the group opposed to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's peace deal with Israel, denied responsibility for any of the bombings.

Detectives cautioned newspapers not to publish photos or artists' impressions of Zekra because her identity was likely to be an issue in the trial.

After the London attacks police issued an artist's impression of the woman who had parked the car-bomb in an Audi sports coupe in front of the Israeli embassy.

Security guards had briefly questioned the woman, who was described as wearing expensive clothes and carrying a Harrods department store bag under her arm, but she had explained she was visiting friends nearby and was allowed to walk away.

The car exploded a few minutes later as the guards ran a security check on the car's licence plates, which turned out to be fakes.

## FIS wants U.S. to end French aid for Algiers

CAIRO (Agencies) — Algeria's outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) will meet with U.S. officials next week to seek help in pressuring France to end its support for the Algiers government, a FIS leader was quoted as saying Saturday.

Anwar Haddam, a senior official of the fundamentalist movement's leadership in exile, told the Saudi daily Al Sharq Al Awsat that FIS hoped Washington's favourable response to peace proposals drawn up last week by Algerian opposition parties "will be followed by pressure on French leaders who continue to support the military against the Algerian people."

"We will this week have contacts on the subject with U.S. officials," Mr. Haddam told the daily from Washington, where he lives.

The FIS, which has been waging a bloody guerrilla war against the military-backed regime in Algiers since early 1992, accuses France of providing significant military and economic aid to the Algerian government.

It joined with other opposition movements in Rome last week to draw up a series of proposals for ending the civil war, but the plans have been rejected by the Algerian government and the two principal armed movements inside the country.

The meeting would act as a corollary to Washington's "favourable welcome" for the plan, he said.

He added that a campaign to be launched by the FIS this week to inform the international community about the details of the Jan. 13 Rome accord would in no way "signify the internationalisation of the Algerian crisis."

"But we have the right to work to end the inhuman and immoral support for the putschists (of the military regime)

from French circles," Mr. Haddam stressed.

He said only then would the government be forced to sit down with the opposition to discuss implementation of the accord, which calls for a "gradual" end to violence and condemned "detentions, disappearances, murders (and) systematic torture" in the Algerian conflict.

The two main Islamic guerrilla movements in Algeria on Saturday rejected the Rome proposals.

The Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) blasted the Rome participants' condemnation of violence as a means of overthrowing the military government and gaining power.

The parties who met (in Rome) were unjust towards the mujahideen in signing the point concerning the condemnation of violence to gain power," the AIS newsletter, Al Feth Al Moumine, said.

The group said the Rome document, which backed a "gradual" return to peace, would do nothing to change the situation in Algeria.

The Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most radical of the fundamentalist guerrilla movements, also confirmed Saturday its commitment to "armed struggle" to set up an Islamic-run government in a statement published Saturday by the London-edited Saudi daily Al Hayat.

The GIA criticised the peace plan drawn up in Rome for equating "the jihad (holy war) with civil war."

Meanwhile the president of Algeria's football federation, Rachid Harague, was shot and killed early Saturday by suspected Islamic militants, security services said.

They said "armed terrorists" struck at 7:30 a.m. (0630 GMT) as Harague, 58, was preparing to drive away from his home in central Algiers.

## Yemeni president returns home

SANAA (R) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh returned home on Saturday from a European tour during which he and his hosts discussed a long-standing border dispute with Saudi Arabia.

The official SABA news agency said visits to France, the Netherlands and Germany achieved "positive results." It did not elaborate.

Mr. Saleh had sought increased European economic and technical assistance to offset losses from last year's two-month civil war with southern separatists which he has put at \$11 billion.

His week-long trip followed an escalation in the border dispute with the Saudis marked by clashes over the past few weeks before both sides accepted a Syrian-brokered accord to defuse tension.

The official media quoted Mr. Saleh as saying while in Europe that he had accepted a 60-year-old agreement with Saudi Arabia as the basis to settle the dispute.

He said "as for settling and demarcating the borders, we accept that the basis for solving the border problem is the Taif agreement in its full entirety," Sanaa Radio reported.

This was the first endorsement of the accord by a Yemeni head of state. A diplomat described the development said as "a gamble into the unknown."

Saudi Arabia, under its founder King Abdul Aziz, fought a border war in 1934 against the then ruler of Yemen, Imam Yahia, in which the Yemeni forces were defeated.

Arab mediators persuaded the two sides to sign an agreement in the Saudi City Taif under which Yahia ceded control to Saudi Arabia for 20 years over territory seized in the war in the province of Najran and Asir.

Yemen has never ratified the Taif agreement, which it says reflected the weight of military defeat, but has renewed it twice, in 1954 and 1974, as talks for a final settlement dragged on inconclusively.

"Over the years, the public opinion in Yemen refused even to talk about the Taif agreement. Today, Saleh expressed the readiness for its full implementation. For us in Yemen this is a dramatic development," Abdul Wabab Al Ansi, deputy prime minister, said.

"In the past politicians were killed simply because they were in favour of implementing the agreement," Mr. Ansi, who accompanied Mr. Saleh during the tour told state television.

He named them as former Foreign Minister Mohammad Ahmad Noman, killed in Beirut in 1974, and former Prime Minister Qadhi Abdullah Al Hajri, who was murdered in London in 1977.

## COLUMN

### Earthquake mothers beat the odds

KOBE, Japan (AFP) — A few Kobe mothers told Saturday how her life was saved by giving birth during the city's killer earthquake. Mari Morita, one of several mothers to give birth during Tuesday's disaster and its aftermath, left home just four hours before the huge quake which has left more than 5,250 dead or missing. Morita, 29, who gave birth to her second son while the city burned, lives in the Nagata district of Kobe which was the worst hit. Morita said the birth probably saved the lives of her family as they left their home before it was destroyed in the quake. Other earthquake mothers told how they had to brave child birth without drugs and while doctors also battled to save other casualties. More than 10 of Kobe's 100 hospitals were demolished by the 7.2 Richter scale tremor. Yumiko Motoki's second son was born Tuesday at a Kobe hospital without electricity, water and heating 14 hours after the quake. Supported by her husband, Yoshihiko, 33, and their two children, she managed to get out of their apartment through the window and walked for 30 minutes to the hospital. During the delivery, the doctor had only a candle for light, she said. Yuko Oka, a 25-year-old piano teacher in Takarazuka east of Kobe, gave birth to a girl while injured people were being brought in. "But as long as we are alive, it does not matter," she said.

### 95,000 cases of corruption uncovered in China

BEIJING (AFP) — China uncovered 95,000 cases of corruption from January to November last year, according to a national anti-corruption conference here, the official Chinese news agency said. A total of 65,000 people were disciplined by the Chinese Communist Party, and 37,000 cases were dealt with administrative regulations, the Xinhua report said.

### Swiss to crack down on unwanted foreigners

BERNE (AFP) — Swiss police will have powers to crack down on unwanted foreigners from next month using legislation approved by referendum last year to hold suspects in long-term detention, the Justice Ministry announced Friday. The measure, which leftwing and civil rights groups have strongly criticised as racist and as an assault on foreign residents' rights, was overwhelmingly backed in the referendum Dec. 4. Under the legislation, police have the power to hold any foreign residents found without a residence permit and any asylum-seekers suspected of seeking to stay in Switzerland illegally for periods of up to nine months without charge. Police are also being afforded greater powers of stop and search. Civil rights groups have accused the government of whipping up a climate of racial intolerance in Switzerland where rightwing groups have campaigned against allowing foreigners residency rights.

### Canadian province to study decriminalising drugs

VANCOUVER (R) — The Canadian Province of British Columbia said Friday it would look into decriminalising some drugs like heroin under certain circumstances in an attempt to combat overdose deaths. The province's chief coroner Vince Cain proposed not prosecuting users for possessing some drugs and perhaps even providing heroin to some hardened addicts. His ideas were outlined in a report released Friday on reducing drug deaths. "I am recommending the decriminalisation of simple possession of specific 'soft' and 'hard' drugs... I am suggesting the possibility of providing heroin to seriously addicted people in a para-medical model," Mr. Cain said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Baghdad urges Kurds to accept dialogue

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz on Saturday urged warring Kurds in northern Iraq to accept President Saddam Hussein's offer to mediate in their conflict. Mr. Aziz told newspaper editors here that "Kurdish parties in northern Iraq must respond positively to the government's offer of dialogue," made last Monday. "If they do not they will be fully responsible (for their attitude) in front of the Kurdish people," he said. Fighting between supporters of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) and its rival, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), which flared on Dec. 24 has left between 100 and 300 people dead, Kurdish sources say.

### Polisario halts voter list work

TUNIS (R) — The Polisario Front, seeking independence in the Western Sahara, largely controlled by Morocco, said on Saturday it had temporarily suspended work on voter registration for a referendum on the future of the area. The front said the suspension was in protest at Morocco allegedly banning an elderly tribal chief from travelling to refugee camps controlled by Polisario in southwest Algeria to work with the U.N. identification commission. The identification process of people who should take part in the auto-determination referendum of western Sahara people is interrupted temporarily," said the statement, obtained by Reuters in Tunis. "The momentary halt comes also as a gesture of protest to urge that the identification process be held with transparency and clarity," the Polisario added, without elaborating.

### Malaysia offers to train Palestinians

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia on Saturday offered to train Palestinians in the skills needed to improve the infrastructure of the new autonomous region. Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Malaysia was in a position to help because it had ample training facilities. The Palestinian Authority, which administers the autonomous region, was welcome to send its officers to Malaysia for technical and other training, he said.

### Syrians commemorate death of Basel Assad

DAMASCUS (AP) — Hundreds of Syrians and Arabs from other countries gathered in the northwestern town of Karahah on Saturday to commemorate the first anniversary of the death of President Hafez Assad's eldest son, Basel. Basel, 31, was killed in a car crash in Damascus Jan. 21, 1994 and was buried the next day in Karahah, the Assad family's hometown, amid frenzied display of grief across the country. A year later the visitors laid wreaths on the tomb and paid tribute to the late Basel, who before the accident was being groomed as a possible successor to his father.

### Witnesses to testify at Geagea trial

BEIRUT (AFP) — Witnesses will start testifying at the trial of Lebanese Christian warlord Samir Geagea on Feb. 3, presiding Judge Philippe Khairallah said Saturday. Mr. Geagea, head of the Lebanese Forces militia in the last five years of the 1975-1990 civil war, is charged with murdering rival Christian leader Dany Chamoun and his family in 1990. He is also accused of the bombing of a church near Beirut in February 1994 that claimed 11 lives. Defence lawyers dropped a seven-week boycott of Mr. Geagea's trial and attended a hearing here on Friday.

### Bazargan funeral in Tehran on Monday

TEHRAN (AFP) — A funeral will be held here Monday for Iran's former prime minister and opposition leader, Mehdi Bazargan, who died of heart failure in a Swiss hospital, his relatives said Saturday. The funeral procession is to start at Husseinieh-Enshad mosque in northern Tehran, but the relatives did not say where he would be buried. The body was due to be flown back here overnight Sunday. In his will Bazargan had asked to be buried at his ancestral cemetery in the holy city of Qom, in central Iran. Bazargan, 88, collapsed shortly after arriving at Zurich airport Friday on his way to the United States for medical treatment, the official Iranian news agency IRNA reported. He was taken by helicopter to a hospital in the town where he later died. Iranian newspapers and official radio and television on Saturday announced the death of Bazargan and offered condolence messages to his relatives.